METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION

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MSP Airport prepares for extended wave of Thanksgiving travel

Several new restaurant venues open ahead of the holiday travel season



Terminal 2 travelers will be able to enjoy several new concessions in the central part of Terminal 2 during their holiday travels through MSP. Courtesy of the Metropolitan Airports Commission

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL, Minn. — Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) is preparing for the upswing in travelers expected around the Thanksgiving holiday. Just in time for those

bigger crowds, several new concession venues are open to serve passengers before and after their flights.

Over the course of 11 days between Friday, Nov. 20, and Monday, Nov. 30, MSP is expecting more than 405,000 people to be screened through security checkpoints. This is in addition to passengers connecting and arriving at MSP.

The holiday travel season begins Friday, Nov. 20, when more than 38,000 travelers are expected to pass through MSP security checkpoints. The airport's busiest pre-Thanksgiving Day is forecast to be Wednesday, Nov. 25, with approximately 46,000 passengers expected to clear security. Following the holiday, Sunday, Nov. 29, is projected to be the busiest travel day, with more than 46,700 travelers moving through MSP checkpoints. These passenger forecasts highlight the significant activity expected at MSP's ticketing and security screening areas. With additional connecting and arriving passengers, MSP will also see peak passenger volumes in concourses and gate areas over the next two weeks.

"Thanksgiving is one of the busiest travel periods of the year, and we are excited to welcome travelers through MSP Airport as they begin their holiday journeys," said Brian Ryks, CEO of the Metropolitan Airports Commission, which owns and operates MSP. "We encourage travelers to plan ahead, arrive early and take advantage of new airport venues and other amenities to help make their trip as smooth as possible."

MSP's newest venues open ahead of the holiday

Just ahead of Thanksgiving, MSP travelers in Terminal 2 will have several new places to find eats and drinks in the central part of the terminal.

Terminal 2's first McDonald's celebrated its grand opening on Nov. 17. The national favorite offers easy kiosk ordering at the counter and across the corridor in the Gate H8 area. It will operate adjacent to a new Subway that is set to open in early December. These venues join the new B.A.R. Flights, which opened in late October in the same area. B.A.R. Flights offers an elevated bar experience with a light food menu featuring shareable bites, flatbreads and convenient breakfast offerings.

The recent Terminal 2 concessions redevelopment also includes a Hometown Market and Caribou Coffee, both of which opened this spring, as well as a new illy Caffè location on the pre-security side of the terminal near the baggage claim area. Illy Caffè features a full espresso bar with hot and cold coffee beverages, breakfast offerings including sandwiches and pastries, and lunch options such as focaccia sandwiches, salads and desserts.

Helpful tips for Thanksgiving travel:

- Drivers at Terminal 1 can take advantage of the overflow pick-up and drop-off curb on the east side of the upper-level Departures median. Passengers can go up one level by elevator, escalator or stairs to the mezzanine, then cross the short skyway into the terminal.

- Terminal 2 also has an alternative pick-up and drop-off area accessible in the Purple Ramp. The Terminal 2 Express Lane provides a covered loading zone on the second level, offering quick access to the terminal via a sky bridge.

- Travelers are encouraged to arrive at the airport at least two hours in advance of a domestic flight or three hours before an international flight.

- MSP passengers can reserve a spot in the security line for free through MSP RESERVE. Reservation times vary per terminal, and availability is limited.

- Travelers can prebook parking online to guarantee a spot and capture the lowest daily rates. Bookings must be made at least 12 hours prior to scheduled arrival time.

- To further reduce traffic congestion at curbside pick-up areas, drivers picking up passengers are encouraged to wait in advance at MSP's free cell phone lots on Post Road. Drivers should stay parked until their arriving party contacts them to pick them up at either terminal.

- Get the latest TSA security screening information and tips including identification requirements and regulated items for carry-on and checked baggage.

About The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC)

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) owns and operates one of the nation's largest airport systems, including *Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport (MSP)* and *six general aviation airports. MAC's airports connect the region to the world and showcase Minnesota's extraordinary culture to millions of passengers from around the globe who arrive or depart through MAC airports each year. Though a public corporation of the state of Minnesota, the organization is not funded by income or property taxes. Instead, the MAC's operations are funded by rents and fees generated by users of its airports. For more information, visit www.metroairports.org.*