



News Release

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CHICAGO'S AIRPORTS READY FOR BUSY SUMMER TRAVEL SEASON

CHICAGO – The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is ready to welcome 1.1 million passengers at O'Hare and Midway International Airports over the Memorial Day travel period beginning today through Monday, May 31.

Airlines project that the busiest travel day at both O'Hare and Midway during this holiday will be Friday, May 27, with nearly 199,000 passengers anticipated to travel through O'Hare, and over 65,000 at Midway.

"The CDA and all of its airport partners at O'Hare and Midway are pleased to provide an efficient, safe and friendly experience for the millions of visitors who will fly to and from Chicago this summer," said CDA Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. "We have a full complement of amenities and services for travelers at both airports."

Over Memorial Day weekend, United Service Organizations (USO) volunteers at O'Hare will provide baked goods, bottled water and informational pamphlets to military personnel. The welcome stations will be located just beyond security in Terminals 1, 2 and 3 from May 29 through 31. At Midway, the USO center is located in Concourse C.

The USO of Illinois has centers at both O'Hare and Midway that provide military personnel and their families with a place to relax, enjoy a snack, check e-mail and readjust to life before returning home or being deployed. The O'Hare USO center is located in Terminal 2 on the mezzanine level and the Midway USO center is located in Concourse C.

Flags at both airports will be lowered to half-staff from sunrise to sunset on Memorial Day.

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In addition, the following acknowledgements and decorations will be placed in both airports from May 27 through May 31:

A wreath with signage will be displayed at the Butch O'Hare exhibit at O'Hare in Terminal 2 and at the Battle of Midway exhibit in Concourse A at Midway.

Patriotic music will be played in the terminals. Concessions will display red, white and blue holiday decorations and U.S. flags at their terminal locations

Volunteer Airport Ambassadors at Midway, and Travelers Aid staff and volunteers at O'Hare will distribute small U.S. flags to visitors at the Travelers Aid booth.

All terminal roadway LED signs at both airports will display a message of appreciation to our military for their past and present service.

The terminal announcements will play the message - "The City of Chicago salutes our military, past and present...Thank you for your valiant service to our country" - throughout the holiday weekend.

U.S. flags will be placed at various airport parking exits, as well as at the O'Hare Airport Transit System (ATS) stations.

New concessions. O'Hare is proud to highlight the following new restaurants: America's Dog in Terminal 1, Tortas Frontera by Rick Bayless in Terminal 1 and Wicker Park Seafood and Sushi Bar in Terminal 2.

Additional Airport Amenities

Kid's play areas. Families looking for a kid-friendly place to relax at O'Hare are reminded to visit the "Kids on the Fly" play area in Terminal 2 or the "Play It Safe" area in International Terminal 5. Both play areas are located beyond the security checkpoints and are sponsored by the Chicago Children's Museum.

Both airports support an interfaith chapel for worship and meditation. The chapel at O'Hare is located in Terminal 2 on the mezzanine level (before security) and the Midway chapel is located in Concourse C on the mezzanine level. There is also a medical clinic at O'Hare operated by staff of the University of Illinois-Chicago. The clinic is located in the main corridor that connects Terminals 2 and 3 (airside).

CDA Summer Travel Tips

The following tips will help make travel through Chicago's airports more convenient and enjoyable:

Getting to the Airport

Travelers should allow ample time for traveling to the airports, ticketing and checking baggage. It is recommended that all passengers arrive at least two hours before their scheduled flight departure.

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Parking at the Airport

Parking services at both airports will maintain at full staffing levels to ensure efficient operations.

At O'Hare, the parking rate is \$2.00 for the first hour and \$4.00 for the second and third hours in the main parking structure. Variable message signs are permanently positioned on I-190 to direct passengers to our parking facilities.

Midway's parking garage rates are \$2.00 for 10 minutes to 30 minutes, \$4.00 for one hour or less, \$6.00 for two hours or less and \$2.00 for each additional hour. Variable message signs will be positioned at Cicero Avenue to direct passengers to our parking facilities. Real-time parking availability information for both O'Hare and Midway is posted on www.flychicago.com.

The CDA's cell phone parking lots enable motorists to temporarily park free of charge until friends, family members or business associates have deplaned, collected baggage and are ready to be picked up curbside.

The O'Hare cell phone lot is located at Economy Parking Lot F and the Midway cell phone lot is located at 61st Street and Cicero Avenue, just south of the main airport entrance.

Motorists are reminded that curbside parking is prohibited and unattended and parked vehicles will be ticketed and towed.

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The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The CDA continues to incorporate and expand sustainable initiatives for airport planning, operations and maintenance, concessions and tenants in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM), released in August 2009. To view case studies, lessons learned and new technologies, and for more information on the SAM, please visit www.airportgoinggreen.org.

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit www.oharemodernization.org to learn more about the OMP.

