

*Press Office*  
City of Chicago, Department of Aviation  
Richard L. Rodriguez, Commissioner



# News Release

**December 17, 2008**

**Contact: Karen Pride**  
**(773) 686-3700**  
**kpride@ohare.com**

## **CHICAGO'S AIRPORTS WELCOME HOLIDAY TRAVELERS**

*Holiday entertainment and travel reminders for the busy season*

CHICAGO - The Chicago Airport System expects 2.8 million travelers at O'Hare and Midway International Airports this holiday season beginning Saturday, December 20 through the end of the year. The busiest travel days are expected to be Tuesday, December 23 with more than 54,000 passengers at Midway and Sunday, December 28 with approximately 203,000 passengers traveling through O'Hare.

Both airports will host live entertainment for travelers on select weekdays through Tuesday December 23, including performances by local blues and jazz bands, barbershop quartets and carolers. Other festive amenities include free gift-wrapping, a children's workshop and a visit from Santa Claus.

"We want passengers to enjoy the colorful decorations and spirited sounds of the season as they travel through our airports," said Aviation Commissioner Richard L. Rodriguez. "Chicago's airports are ready with a full range of services and amenities for travelers during the busy holiday season."

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) asks that travelers not bring wrapped gifts to the airport because they may be opened and inspected as part of the security screening process. To make gifts festive again after screening, the Chicago Airport System will provide free gift-wrapping services.

### **Holiday Entertainment, Amenities and Services**

Complimentary gift-wrapping services will be available at both airports on December 19, 22 and 23. Gift-wrapping will be available from 2 to 5 p.m. at O'Hare in Terminal 1, B Concourse near the Dinosaur exhibit, in Terminal 2 near Cibo Express, and in Terminal 3 near Gate H1; and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Midway near Harry Caray's Restaurant. A selection of holiday wrapping paper and gift bag designs, including one created by students in the After School Matters program, will be available at gift-wrapping stations and select retail shops.

The Chicago Airport System's amenities extend to military personnel and families. United Service Organizations (USO) volunteers will provide goodie bags filled with snacks, bottled water and informational pamphlets to military personnel at welcome stations located beyond security at O'Hare on December 19, 20, 23 and 24 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The USO operates facilities at O'Hare and Midway to provide men, women and families of the Armed Forces with a place to relax, enjoy a meal, check e-mail, phone home and re-adjust to life before returning home or being deployed.

- More -

## **HOLIDAY NEWS/page two**

In addition, the Chicago Children's Museum will host a free holiday workshop in the "Kids on the Fly" play area in Terminal 2 at O'Hare from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### **Entertainment schedule**

Wednesday, December 17	Jazz/Blues bands at both airports (2 to 5 p.m.)
Thursday, December 18	Barbershop quartets at both airports (2 to 5 p.m.)
Friday, December 19	Jazz/Blues bands at both airports (2 to 5 p.m.); Santa Claus (Midway - 1 to 3 p.m. / O'Hare - 3 to 5 p.m.)
Monday, December 22	Jazz/Blues bands at both airports (2 to 5 p.m.)
Tuesday, December 23	Carolers (Midway - 1 to 3 p.m. /O'Hare - 3 to 5 p.m.)

### **Travel Reminders**

The Department of Aviation advises travelers to call ahead or check flight status online and to arrive at the airport at least two hours in advance of their scheduled departure.

Passengers are also reminded about the TSA's 3-1-1 restriction: If you bring liquids, gels and aerosols as carry-ons, they must be in 3-ounce or smaller containers placed in a 1-quart, clear plastic zip-top bag and only 1 bag per passenger is allowed. Larger quantities should be placed in checked luggage. For more information, visit [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).

### **Getting to the Airport**

Travelers are encouraged to take advantage of the public transportation options available to both O'Hare and Midway. The CTA's Blue line to O'Hare and the Orange line to Midway are convenient ways to get to the airports and the Loop while avoiding roadway congestion. "L" riders can obtain real-time flight information for O'Hare and Midway from flight information display systems located at the CTA Clark/Lake Station.

The Metra North Central Service has five weekday inbound and outbound trains between O'Hare and Chicago's Union Station. Regional bus service is also available to and from both airports. PACE provides regional bus service to O'Hare which terminates at the Airport Transit System (ATS) Kiss 'n' Fly. For more information, visit [www.pacebus.com](http://www.pacebus.com).

### **Parking at the Airport**

O'Hare's hourly parking rates are \$2 for the first hour and \$4 for up to three hours in the parking garage. Midway's hourly parking rates are \$2 for 10-30 minutes, \$4 for 30-60 minutes, \$6 for up to two hours, and \$8 for up to three hours.

The Chicago Airport System'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. At O'Hare, the 150-space lot is located at Economy Parking Lot F. Exit I-190 at North Mannheim Road and follow the signs to Economy Parking F/Cell Phone Lot. The 90-space lot at Midway is located at 61st Street and Cicero Avenue, just south of the main airport entrance.

**HOLIDAY NEWS/page three**

A flight information display is now operational in the O'Hare cell phone parking lot for the convenience of motorists who are picking up passengers. The jumbo size LED sign displays flight arrival information at O'Hare and is viewable from anywhere within the parking lot.

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

~ ~ ~ ~

The Chicago Airport System 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](http://www.flychicago.com) to learn more about the Chicago Airport System.