



FLIGHT LINES

FAIRBANKS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
6450 Airport Way, Suite 1, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
907-474-2500, www.fai.alaska.gov

Summer 2020

COVID-19 Airport Testing

The Fairbanks International Airport (FAI) terminal services team continues to ensure the advanced cleaning protocols are in place, utilizing state of the art equipment to guarantee the safety of our visitors and employees.

COVID-19 traveler testing is utilizing the majority of the space in the baggage claim area, Beacon (the test contractor through Alaska Department of Health and Social Services) is providing testing for passengers arriving from outside of Alaska that were unable to get tested in their home state prior to coming to Alaska. They operate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to ensure this critical service is available to every inbound Fairbanks passenger. Those testing are also provided with a second voucher to test 7-10 days later, also through the airport testing site. Beacon is currently sampling over 250 travelers daily.

On July 23rd, Governor Mike Dunleavy implemented a workplace policy for all State of Alaska facilities requiring all employees, contractors, and visitors to wear facemasks if social distancing of at least six feet or more between individuals cannot be maintained. This applies to entryways, hallways, stairwells, elevators, enclosed parking areas, and personal offices where a six-foot distance cannot be exercised.

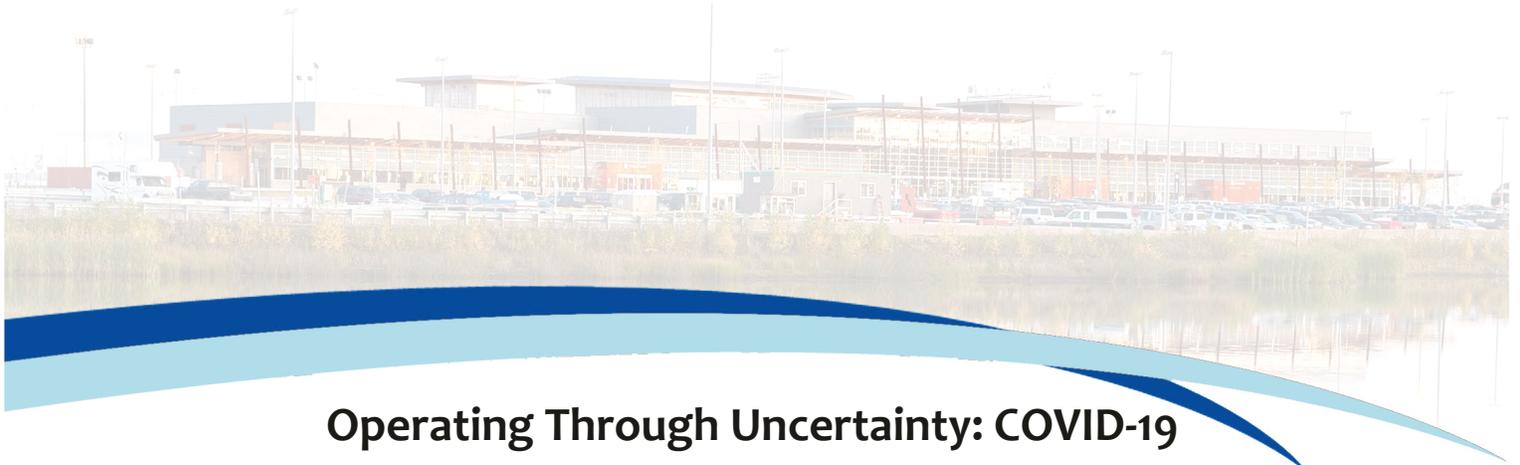
It was announced Tuesday, July 28, 2020 that changes to the out-of-state traveler testing protocols will be implemented on Aug. 11, 2020. For the most current information visit <https://covid19.alaska.gov/travelers/>.



Photo: Beacon COVID-19 testing center at FAI.

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Operating Through Uncertainty: COVID-19

Summer at FAI looks a bit different than past years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Passenger numbers dropped to a record low in April and have rebounded almost 300% as of July. While we are still down 70% from our typical summer passenger numbers we are moving in the right direction. In terminal concession operators have adjusted their operations to meet the ever changing flight schedules and serve the traveling public. Starbucks is currently closed but the “LOCAL” is open during active flight times, as is Twigs Alaskan Gifts. Both the Local and Twigs have sanitation items available for purchase.



Photo: FAI Passenger Numbers from January to June 2020.

Omni Hanger Construction

Construction continues at Omni Logistics, Inc. as their contractor, American Mechanical Inc., constructs their new hanger. This hangar will be able to handle any narrow-body aircraft currently flying, including a 737 Max 10 or Airbus A321. The building's exterior will be complete before the snow flies, while the interior is planned to be completed during the winter. The facility is expected to be complete and open summer of 2021.

Thank you Omni for investing in FAI and serving our community and partner needs.





LifeMed Groundbreaking

On July 23, 2020 LifeMed ceremoniously turned dirt on the west ramp in anticipation of the start of construction on a new air ambulance hangar. LifeMed plans to complete the construction for their new hangar by the fall of 2021.

FAI welcomes LifeMed and looks forward to a rewarding partnership.



Ground Transportation Study Complete

With the assistance of Community Members, Airline Partners, Airport Tenants, and the City and Borough of Fairbanks, the Fairbanks International Airport Terminal Ground Access Study was finalized. FAI appreciates the collaboration of all partners to bring recommended changes to the Airport.

As a result of the recommendations, FAI made several changes to the commercial ground transportation policies to alleviate congestion on the concourse.

A cell phone lot was placed on Old Airport Way adjacent to the Everts parking area for those waiting for passenger arrivals. A scheduled City Bus route was added to the East Ramp of the airport. All commercial transportation providers have been issued vehicle permits.

With the addition of these changes, FAI should see a marked reduction in concourse congestion, as well as added convenience for our ground transportation providers and their passengers. To view the study: <http://dot.alaska.gov/faiiap/pdfs/FAI-Final-Report-2020-01-27.pdf>.





F-35 Fighter Jet Familiarization



Fairbanks Airport Police & Fire partnered with the 354th Fighter Wing from Eielson Air Force Base in a joint familiarization operation to become familiar with the F-35 fighter jets. FAI is a diversionary option for Eielson AFB, and it is important that department personnel are familiar with all aircraft that could potentially land at FAI. This knowledge enables FAI to quickly and safely assist pilots in the event of an emergency.

Annual Live-Fire Training

The Fairbanks International Airport Police and Fire department continually works to prepare and train for any emergency that may occur at the airport. They've recently partnered with Eielson Air Force base in their training efforts with joint aircraft fire training with Eielson fire fighters. This training is conducted to meet FAA requirements for recurrent training and to maintain proficiency and capabilities of the airport officers, as well as to practice with our surrounding fire departments in the event we may need to help each other out during an emergency event. Eielson will be assisting in conducting and evaluating our triennial exercise coming up in August, and we look forward to working and training with the 354th Fighter Wing.

