COVID-19 Impacts Air Service

Needless to say it’s been a tough time for the world, the aviation industry along with all sectors of the economy having been hit very hard by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. It has forced airlines to restructure their previously established schedules, and cancel the majority of scheduled flights. Passenger numbers have decreased nationwide over 90% compared to this time last year and a decrease of 86% in Fairbanks. Fairbanks International Airport (FAI), a small hub airport, was expecting a record number of summer travelers both with additional carriers and routes that were announced last fall. The unfortunate cancellations of American Airlines and United Airlines in addition to Delta Air Lines and Alaska Airlines reducing route frequencies. In addition FAI saw the suspension of RAVN Alaska operations throughout the state. It has been devastating not only to the airport, but for Alaska’s traveling public alike. In the meantime, FAI personnel continue to work hard to serve the traveling public, with the service standard that FAI is known for, a welcoming environment with the health and safety of passengers, tenants and employees as a top priority. As the state works through the phases of reopening Alaska responsibly, FAI is standing by and ready to serve travelers and looks forward to a bustling airport again. Alaskans will get through this together and come out stronger than ever.

Out-of-State Travelers Required to Quarantine

Due to COVID-19, the State of Alaska has instituted a mandatory 14-day quarantine for passengers arriving from destinations outside of Alaska. Passengers are required to fill out a mandatory travel declaration form upon arrival in Alaska, to access the form please visit ready.alaska.gov/form.

Residents returning to Alaska are to self quarantine at their place of residence. Visitors are to self quarantine at their lodging accommodations for 14 consecutive days or the duration of their stay, whichever is shorter.
Rest Assured,
Your Health is FAI’s Top Priority

FAI’s first priority is the health and safety of airport employees, tenants and the traveling public. FAI is following the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services’ and the Center of Disease Control’s guidance. FAI has implemented advanced cleaning protocols that include frequent cleaning and disinfecting measures, using approved products. FAI staff are practicing social distancing and closely monitoring and disinfecting commonly used surfaces. Furthermore, all public restrooms are equipped with hands free sensor activated technology, and the terminal is stocked with hand sanitizing dispensers. FAI is committed to doing everything possible to reduce the spread of communicable diseases.

FAI is following all of Governor Dunleavy’s health mandates and have added information to the airport website, terminal PA system and Facebook page to keep the traveling public informed.

FAI Never Sleeps

The lights never go out at FAI and airport personnel work diligently around the clock to ensure it. FAI never sleeps nor does Mother Nature, which the Interior was frequently reminded of this winter. While airports around the United States were preparing for spring and summer projects, FAI was battling snowstorm after snowstorm and subzero temperatures. FAI has a dedicated team of professionals that are actively keeping runways, roadways and public areas safe and operational for whatever Mother Nature throws their way.

Real ID Compliance Deadline Extended

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal Real ID compliance deadline has been extended to Oct. 1, 2021.

Visit doa.alaska.gov/dmv for more information.
Fairbanks Aviation Day Cancelled

The Airport Operators Council (AOC) recently made the decision to cancel Fairbanks Aviation Day, initially scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2020.

The AOC stated that, “The concern for the health and safety of our community and the subsequent need to minimize contact between attendees to help slow the spread of the coronavirus makes it prudent to cancel the event this year. While we considered a postponement, uncertainties in the current public health environment required AOC to reconsider. The AOC is very disappointed, but potential conflicts with previously scheduled events and delaying further into the busy flying season helped us decide that postponing the event was not a viable option.”

Airport Operators Council Awards 2020 Scholarship

The AOC announced Judson Scott as their 2020 scholarship recipient. Judson is currently enrolled at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He is in his second semester of the Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) Technician Program.

After Judson completes the A&P Certification in August 2020, he plans to work under an Inspection Authorized A&P Technician in general aviation maintaining small to medium size aircraft. He plans to test for his Inspection Authorization Certificate after three years of working in aviation maintenance. As a pilot, Judson will continue to work toward his commercial, instrument, and multi-engine ratings.

Although he’s not a “traditional” student, Judson demonstrates through discipline and perseverance it’s never too late to follow your dreams.

Judson enjoys flying, hunting and fishing. He earned his private pilot’s certificate in 2004 and is married with three kids. Judson has lived in Alaska for 21 years. He originally relocated to Alaska in 1999 to pursue a career in aviation. After 15 years of working as both a Correctional Officer and a Probation Officer, as well as a Farm Superintendent he will finally accomplish his lifelong passion of working in aviation. The AOC was thrilled to award this $2,000 scholarship to Judson to aid him in making his dream a reality.
DC-4s and More!

An online auction took place for the abandoned items on the Brooks Fuel lot in April. The auction took place online at https://www.1ststrike.com. Auction items included DC-4 aircraft and engine parts!

To make an appointment or check on the status of the auction, please call 907-978-4449 or email auction@1ststrike.com.

Filming at FAI

The airport continues to garner interest regarding FAI’s very own, Yeti. Film crews visited FAI in March and didn’t seem phased by the subzero temperatures. Stay tuned for updates from FAI regarding dates and times for programming in the coming months.

Omni Breaks Ground on New Hangar

Omni Logistics began construction on their new hangar Wednesday, May 6, 2020. FAI is incredibly excited to see construction season begin.
World’s Largest Cargo Aircraft Diverts to FAI

FAI is one-half of the Alaska International Air System, comprised of Fairbanks and Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airports. The system has never had a simultaneous closure. Aircraft that are originally inbound for ANC or FAI do not have to carry any extra fuel if, in a rare instance, they need to divert to the other airport. Our sister airport, ANC, is the 5th busiest cargo hub in the world. Therefore, FAI is equipped to handle any size aircraft and is always standing by to handle any diversions. This includes the world’s LARGEST aircraft, the Antonov AN-225, which along with others diverted to FAI Saturday, May 3, 2020.

Springtime Traditions

The annual snow removal took place to open the fields at Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge. This is a collaborative effort between the Department of Fish & Game, airport maintenance and airport operations and is an effort to protect airspace and birds by offering food and sanctuary. This is a sign of spring for the Interior and after a long, frigid winter, we’re ready!

Photo: FAI Maintenance