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PHL Airport Seeks to Ease the Wait at TSA Checkpoint Lanes

PHILADELPHIA – As the busy summer travel season approaches, airports around the country including Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) are gearing up for long lines at Transportation Security Administration (TSA) security checkpoints. In order to lessen the wait times, the Airport is working with the TSA and the airlines to ensure that the lines move efficiently.

“We understand that air travel can be stressful and that stress can be heightened by long wait times at the checkpoints,” said Airport CEO Chellie Cameron. “People are anxious about the screening process, especially if they are leisure travelers who aren’t accustomed to flying. That anxiety can be compounded if they are standing in a long line worried they may miss their flight. That’s why we want to work with our partners at the TSA and the airlines to make the security screening process as smooth as possible.”

In anticipation of larger passenger numbers, the airlines have hired extra staff to perform non-screening functions including helping passengers review rules for carry-on items and informing them of expected wait times at the checkpoints. Also, the airlines continue the practice established several years ago of informing the TSA overnight of the expected daily passenger loads per flight, which assists the agency in deploying resources to the appropriate checkpoints.

To expedite the screening process and decrease wait times at security lines, the TSA encourages travelers to sign up for TSA Pre-Check. Eligible applicants, who pay an \$85 annual fee, can go through screening in a special lane without removing shoes, outerwear and belts.

At PHL, Pre-Check lanes are open in A-East, 3:30 AM – 8:00 PM; Terminal B, 4:15 AM – 8:00 PM; and D-E, 3:45 AM – 8:00 PM. While Pre-Check hours vary at C according to passenger volume, if Pre-Check is noted on the boarding pass, travelers can request expedited screening if the lane is not open. Pre-Check is not open at F Terminal but Pre-Check passengers who are flying out of F can use the Pre-Check lane at D/E, or any other terminal and take the shuttle at C or A-East to F.

The TSA recommends that travelers arrive at the Airport at least 2 hours prior to a domestic departure, 3 hours before an international flight. Checkpoints at PHL open at the following times: A-West, 5:15 AM; A-East, 3:30 AM; C, 4:15 AM; D/E, 3:45 AM; F, 4:15 AM. B checkpoint is open 24 hours.

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To help for a smoother trip through security screening, the TSA also recommends:

- The My TSA mobile application, which can be downloaded on iOS and Android devices from iTunes and Google Play as well as tsa.gov/mobile.
- Follow @AskTSA on Twitter for questions and comments on TSA screening.
- Know what you can and cannot pack in your carry-on and checked baggage. If in doubt about an item, visit tsa.gov and click on the “When I fly can I bring my...” tool.
- Comply with the 3-1-1 rule: liquids, gels, aerosols, creams and pastes cannot be in a container larger than 3.4 ounces; these items must be placed in a 1 quart plastic bag; one plastic bag permitted per passenger.
- Remove all items from your pockets and place the items into your carry-on bag or into a bin when you get to the checkpoint.
- Pack your bag properly so it can move through the X-ray faster. Visit tsa.gov for tips on packing.
- Pay attention to the instructions that the TSA officers provide at the checkpoint.
- Travelers who have medical conditions or disabilities are encouraged to call the TSA Cares toll-free helpline in advance (at least 72 hours is recommended) of their trip at 1.855.787.2227 to ask about screening policies, procedures and what to expect at the checkpoint.

Travelers with TSA-related questions may also email TSA-ContactCenter@dhs.gov, or call 866.289.9673.

Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$14.4 billion in spending to the regional economy and accounting for more than 141,000 jobs.