



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Des Moines International Airport Prepares for Busy Spring Break Travel Season**

**Des Moines, Iowa (March 4, 2019):** The Des Moines International Airport is preparing for a busy spring break travel season. The airport experiences a significant increase of passengers during this time of year, which may lead to longer lines and congested areas throughout the facility – including parking lots. This season brings the heaviest parking demand at DSM, so lots near the south side of the airport may be all that is available for some travelers. Airport representatives recommend passengers arrive at least 90 minutes prior to their scheduled flight to ensure they have enough time to park, get through security checkpoints and find their gate.

In past years, March has traditionally seen a drastic uptick in passenger traffic in comparison to the months directly before and after it – an average of 14.8 percent higher than February passenger totals and 10.1 percent higher than those in April. Many of these travelers are headed to one of the airport’s many warm, nonstop destinations to escape the Iowa winter, including last year’s most popular choices from DSM: Phoenix and Orlando.

“Spring break is consistently one of the busiest times of the year for Iowa travelers, especially those wanting to leave the ice and cold,” said Kevin Foley, Des Moines Airport Authority executive director. “With this seasonal increase in travelers, as well as the overall passenger increase year over year, people should be prepared for a bustling airport terminal over the next few weeks.”

In addition to arriving at least 90 minutes prior to scheduled departure, airport representatives also recommend:

- **Checking in early:** Many major airlines allow passengers to check in to their scheduled flight through their mobile app or website at least 24 hours prior to boarding in order to skip ticketing lines at the airport.
- **Preparing for security screening:** While passengers wait in security checkpoint lines, they can expedite the process by removing any jackets, belts, shoes, liquids and [other TSA screening items](#).
- **Finding your gate first:** Passengers should also plan to find their designated gate prior to making restroom or meal stops, and to accommodate for any gate changes before takeoff.

Another warm destination will be available beginning on May 16, as the Des Moines Airport and Allegiant Air will be offering a new seasonal nonstop flight to Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport in the

Florida panhandle. The new flight will operate twice a week and, with the addition, Allegiant will serve seven cities from DSM.

**About the Des Moines Airport Authority**

The Des Moines Airport Authority is an independent entity that oversees the operations and maintenance of the Des Moines International Airport. The Airport Authority works to improve the quality of air service and make air travel to and from Des Moines more convenient and pleasurable. For more information, visit [www.dsmairport.com](http://www.dsmairport.com) and follow [@dsmairport](https://twitter.com/dsmairport) on Twitter and [DSM International Airport](https://www.facebook.com/DSMInternationalAirport) on Facebook.

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