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PRESS RELEASE

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TSA holiday screening volumes tick above 1M on several days during Thanksgiving travel period

WASHINGTON – The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) reported screening more than 1 million airline passengers on four individual days during the Thanksgiving holiday travel period, which began Friday, November 20 and ended Sunday, November 29.

The total travel volume of passengers screened by the TSA over the 10-day period was approximately 9.5 million passengers, with volumes ranging from 35% to 45% of 2019 volumes during the same time frame. On April 14, TSA screening volumes dropped to a low of 87,500, or just 4% of travel volume compared to the year prior. Since recording that low, travel volumes have exhibited a gradual strengthening, rising to approximately 40% of recovery between Labor Day and the Thanksgiving holiday. The last time travel volume rose above 1M in a single day was Sunday, October 18 during the Columbus Day holiday travel period.

In response to the pandemic, TSA has implemented substantial modifications to its screening checkpoints as part of its overall “[Stay Healthy. Stay Secure.](#)” campaign to protect its employees and airline passengers. Those efforts include eliminating physical contact wherever possible, improved sanitization of equipment and surfaces, and posting of signage for passengers to maintain social distance while in the screening lane. TSA continues to require that all screening officers wear face masks while at the checkpoint and additional staff have been deployed to open up more screening lanes to enable better social distancing.

TSA has also aggressively installed equipment that improves both the security and efficiency of screening operations as well as helps to contain the spread of COVID-19, including:

- Acrylic barriers at various points throughout the checkpoint
- New credential authentication technology (CAT) that allows travelers to insert their own IDs for verification at the Travel Document Checker (TDC).
- New computed tomography (CT) scanners that replace existing X-Ray technology. The new CT scanners provide an image of carry-on bag contents that can be rotated in three dimensions, thereby reducing the need for TSA screening officers to open up bags.

Beyond all the modifications to the screening checkpoints, TSA continues to work closely with airline and airport partners to ensure a safe holiday travel season. All travelers should first check with appropriate CDC travel guidelines. Those that do choose to travel by air should also check with their airline as well as COVID-19-related guidelines at their destination.

For more information about the TSA response to COVID-19 and other adjustments TSA has made at security screening checkpoints, please visit [tsa.gov/coronavirus](https://www.tsa.gov/coronavirus). New travelers should also consider applying for [TSA PreCheck](#)[®] to enjoy even further reduced physical contact and faster screening.

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The Transportation Security Administration was created to strengthen the security of the nation's transportation systems and ensure the freedom of movement for people and commerce. TSA uses an intelligence-based approach to security, and works closely with transportation, law enforcement and intelligence communities to set the standard for excellence in transportation security. For more information about TSA, please visit our website at [tsa.gov](https://www.tsa.gov).