

For Immediate Release

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Columbia Regional Airport offers traveling tips for passengers

(Columbia, MO) As passenger counts increase with more and more people flying to and from Columbia Regional Airport, the airport staff would like to offer some traveler tips to ensure a positive traveling experience.

Northwest Airlines and its Airlink partner, Mesaba Airlines, provide commercial air service through Columbia with 3 flights per day Sunday through Friday and 2 flights on Saturdays. Northwest is very strict about running an on-time airline, knowing that most of the passengers on the plane have connections to make. A number of connection times in Memphis are just 30 minutes and that doesn't leave much room for flights that encounter unplanned delays.

Passengers flying from Columbia Regional Airport should plan to arrive at the airport at least one (1) hour prior to your scheduled departure. At 30 minutes prior to your scheduled departure time, the option to check in will cease for that flight. Passengers who have not checked in may be re-accommodated on the next flight that has seats available. At 30 minutes prior to departure the ticket counter is closed temporarily and all Northwest Airlines staff are involved in the departure process at the gate behind security.

The keys points to maintaining peace of mind on a travel day:

- If possible, check in online and acquire your boarding pass at nwa.com prior to leaving for the airport. Even if you unexpectedly arrive at the airport a bit behind schedule, you have already shown your intent to board the flight and this is documented electronically in the system. If you wait until you get to the airport, you risk running into situations along the way that will put you too close to that 30-minute cut-off time. Remember, you must have your boarding pass and your luggage checked more than 30 minutes prior to departure.

- Even though it's very easy to park at and access Columbia Regional Airport, please allow extra time for unforeseen situations that could subtract minutes from your planned arrival time. Plan to arrive at least one hour prior to your flight and that should set you up for a successful travel experience.

For more information about flying from Columbia Regional Airport, log onto the airport's website at www.FlyMidMo.com or call 573-874-7508.

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