



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Missi Currier, EDCLC

Phone: 575.318.5602

Email: [missi@edclc.org](mailto:missi@edclc.org)

### **FLYHOBBS TO TEMPORARILY REDUCE FLIGHT OPTIONS**

(Lea County, New Mexico, April 10, 2020) FlyHobbs will continue to serve the Permian Basin while temporarily reducing and suspending some flight options due to lowered air travel demand because of COVID-19. The Denver flights are temporarily suspended, and Houston flights will operate three times per week on Monday, Wednesday, Friday starting April 16. The frequency of the Houston flights will increase and the Denver option will return when air travel demand rebounds. The FlyHobbs service is provided by United Airlines.

“United has been a wonderful partner to FlyHobbs during this unprecedented time,” Missi Currier, Economic Development Corporation of Lea County (EDCLC) President and CEO, said. “We appreciate United’s willingness to work with Lea County, the City of Hobbs, and the EDCLC to ensure continued and quality service to all travelers who utilize the service while reducing costs to the taxpayers.”

The reduced Houston flights and suspension of the Denver option is only temporary. Due to a continued drop in travel demand as a result of the outbreak and government mandates or restrictions in place prohibiting travel, the airline announced a 60 percent schedule reduction in April - this includes a 42 percent reduction across the U.S. and Canada and an 85 percent decrease in international flights. United Airlines will resume the FlyHobbs’ flights as air travel demand grows and the requirements for social distancing are reduced.

“FlyHobbs is a vital part of the Lea County, City of Hobbs, and the region’s economies,” Currier said. “It helps to fill our hotels, put people in our restaurants, and keeps businesses working. We look forward to the flights increasing again, because we know the economy will be improving and healing.”

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham issued an executive order requiring air travelers to New Mexico to self-isolate for at least 14 days to help combat the spread of COVID-19. However, the order does state that essential workers are exempt from this quarantine. Essential businesses include industries like oil and gas, medical workers, and construction.

“FlyHobbs encourages everyone to stay home as much as possible during this time and practice social distancing guidelines,” Currier said. “However, if you are required to travel for business, FlyHobbs remains a safe and convenient option.”

For those required to travel, United Airlines follows all Center for Disease Control cleaning guidelines to ensure the cleanest travel experience possible. For more information please visit [www.united.com](http://www.united.com) or [www.flyhobbs.com](http://www.flyhobbs.com).

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