



HOUGHTON COUNTY MEMORIAL AIRPORT & SKYWEST UNITED FACT SHEET

March 17, 2022

OVERVIEW

For the past 12 years, SkyWest has provided excellent service to Houghton County Memorial Airport (CMX) and its surrounding communities. However, due to pilot shortages, SkyWest United has filed a 90-day notice with the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to withdraw from 29 EAS communities, one of which is CMX. **However, this does not mean the airport will close.** Because CMX is an Essential Air Service airport, SkyWest is required by the USDOT to continue to provide service at all 29 communities until a replacement air carrier begins full, essential air service to each community.

AN ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE AIRPORT

Houghton County Memorial Airport is an Essential Air Service (EAS) airport. EAS is a program run by the U.S. Department of Transportation to ensure that smaller air communities in the U.S. receive air service. USDOT is mandated to provide eligible EAS communities with access to the National Air Transportation System.

SKYWEST SERVICE NOTICE

- Unfortunately, due to ongoing pilot staffing imbalance across the aviation industry, on March 10, 2022 SkyWest United filed a 90-day notice with USDOT to withdraw from Houghton County Memorial Airport and 28 other communities, effective June 8, 2022.
- This notice is standard procedure if a carrier wants to end service to a community.
- SkyWest United's withdrawal does not mean the closure of the Houghton County Memorial Airport.
- In accordance with SkyWest's EAS contract with the USDOT, a hold-in order has been put in place that says the airline must continue to provide service at CMX until a carrier providing equivalent service can be found.

NEXT STEPS

- The USDOT has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for carriers that may be interested in providing EAS service at CMX. Proposals are due April 11, 2022.
- CMX has begun working with SkyWest and USDOT to identify replacement carriers to submit bids for the EAS RFP. If no bids are received, USDOT will continue the hold-in order already in place until a replacement carrier can be found.
- Passengers can still book flights with SkyWest. When a new carrier is identified, the airport will receive advance notice of approximately 30-45 days. Passengers will then be able to rebook their flights with the new carrier or request a refund.

About Houghton County Memorial Airport Michigan's northernmost airport, CMX is located just four miles from the cities of Houghton and Hancock, and seven miles from Calumet. The airport's location provides essential access to the National Air Transportation System for approximately 50,000 to 55,000 passengers annually within the four-county area of Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, and Ontonagon.