

## Christmas Eve Travel Chaos: Hundreds Of Flights Canceled Due To Staffing Shortages

### Description

**Update (0937ET):** As Christmas Eve morning progresses, air travel chaos across the US worsens.

As of 0800 ET, [CNN's Pete Muntean](#) said US airline carriers had canceled 450 flights due to staffing shortages linked to COVID-19 cases. He said 169 United Airlines Holdings Inc. and 127 Delta Air Lines Inc. flights were canceled.

The number of cancellations worldwide totaled 3,000, according to Flight Aware website. This is the latest blow to holiday travelers.

People are getting angry, venting their frustrations on social media.

[@Delta](#) how on earth can you cancel a flight on Dec 25 when people are trying to get home for Christmas??? How can you be so cruel inefficient and inconsiderate towards your frequent flyers??????? [pic.twitter.com/4N1X8mW4hg](https://pic.twitter.com/4N1X8mW4hg)

— BettyMarroquin2021 (@BMarroquin2021) [December 24, 2021](#)

Flight canceled, transferred to virgin with no available food on board, waited for 5 extra hours, now I've landed and no luggage??? Poor job [@Delta](#)

— Rachel Ruggles (@snugglesssss) [December 24, 2021](#)

.[@Delta](#) just cancelled our xmas day flight. No reason given.

— Kunal Merchant (@kunalmerchant) [December 24, 2021](#)

So [@Delta](#) just delayed my flight by 4+ hours today.  
Their iMessage says there is a 698 minute (11hr) wait to chat with a representative. . .  
Anyone know how to speak with them sooner, if I'm not at the airport yet?

— Darren (@DarrenNesbitt) [December 24, 2021](#)

\* \* \*

Holiday travelers received a troubling last-minute message: major airlines are canceling flights on Christmas Eve due to staffing shortages linked to COVID-19 cases.

According to [Bloomberg](#), at least 200 flights on Friday have been canceled by United Airlines Holdings Inc. and Delta Air Lines Inc.

"The nationwide spike in Omicron cases this week has had a direct impact on our flight crews and the people who run our operation," a United memo said, which was obtained by [CNN](#).

United is "notifying impacted customers in advance of them coming to the airport," according to the memo. "We're sorry for the disruption and are working hard to rebook as many people as possible and get them on their way for the holidays."

Delta said the same thing, a wave of cancellations is due to an outbreak of the Omicron variant.





*"We apologize to our customers for the delay in their holiday travel plans," Delta said in a statement. "Delta people are working hard to get them to where they need to be as quickly and as safely as possible on the next available flight."*

Flight cancellations due to staffing shortages have been nothing new for airlines in the last several months.

As of Friday morning, up to 1,900 flights worldwide have been canceled, according to the Flight Aware website.

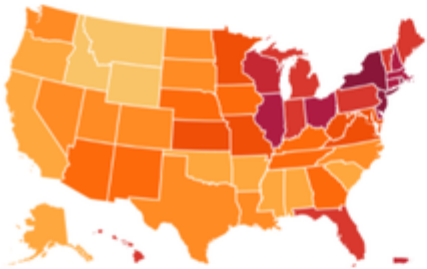
This is the latest blow for holiday travelers amid the spike in COVID cases.

## Tracking the Coronavirus ›

	United States		World	
	Avg. on Dec. 23	14-day change	Avg. on Dec. 23	14-day change
New cases	186,645	+55% 	744,785	+20% 
New deaths	1,369	+7% 	7,014	-8% 

Holiday interruptions to testing and data reporting may affect case and death trends.

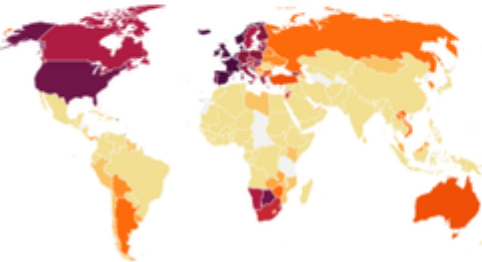
### U.S. hot spots ›



### Vaccinations ›



### Global hot spots ›



### Global vaccinations ›



More flight cancellations may be slated for this upcoming weekend. If so, there will be travel pains for thousands of people who will most likely vent their rage on social media.

by Tyler Durden

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