



For Immediate Release
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New Journey Care Kits now available for travelers with disabilities

COLUMBUS, OH – In conjunction with National Invisible Disabilities Week, October 18 – 24, the Columbus Regional Airport Authority (CRAA) is introducing Journey Care Kits to help passengers with disabilities prepare for air travel.

The kits include sunflower-themed lanyards and wristbands, providing a discreet sign to airport staff that someone might like additional assistance or time when moving through the airport. This can be especially helpful with identifying and assisting travelers with hidden disabilities such as autism, chronic pain, dementia, anxiety or hearing impairment.

The Journey Care Kits also contain:

- Travel preparations checklist and helpful hints
- Cloth facial coverings
- John Glenn Columbus International Airport (CMH) bag tag
- Information on [TSA Cares](#), a program that allows a traveler to pre-arrange to have a TSA officer assigned to assist them through the checkpoint screening process
- Choice between:
 - CMH social story to help children with developmental disabilities, such as autism, prepare for the sights and sounds of travel
 - OhioHealth Neurological Rehabilitation [Wheels Up! Traveling with a Disability](#) brochure with answers to frequently asked questions

“Our goal is for every person who comes through our airports to feel confident, comfortable and excited about their travel experience,” said Joseph R. Nardone, President & CEO for CRAA. “We hope our new Journey Care Kits can serve as a helpful resource for families and individuals with disabilities as they prepare for their next flight.”

CRAA is partnering with OhioHealth Neurological Rehabilitation and Autism Society Central Ohio to connect clients with this new resource.

“Our clients represent a range of neurological conditions affecting mobility and cognition, many of which are invisible to the rest of us,” said Andrea Stump, Outpatient Spinal Cord Injury Program Coordinator for OhioHealth Neurological Rehabilitation. “Air travel is a frequent goal of our clients but can be an intimidating experience for those with neurological conditions. The Journey Care Kits help our clients find peace of mind.”

“Flying can be a source of anxiety for some people on the autism spectrum,” said Kathi Machle, Managing Director of Autism Society Central Ohio. “Our families benefit from resources like the CMH social story that outlines exactly what they can expect at the airport. The Journey Care Kits provide the social story and so much more so that our families can travel confidently.”

Journey Care Kits are also available by emailing CustomerService@ColumbusAirports.com 60 days before a scheduled flight.

About CRAA

The [Columbus Regional Airport Authority](#) connects Ohio with the world by managing and operating passenger-focused [John Glenn Columbus International Airport \(CMH\)](#), cargo-focused [Rickenbacker](#)

[International Airport \(LCK\)](#), and general aviation airport Bolton Field (TZR). To learn more about CRAA's response to COVID-19, visit: flycolumbus.com/updates2020

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