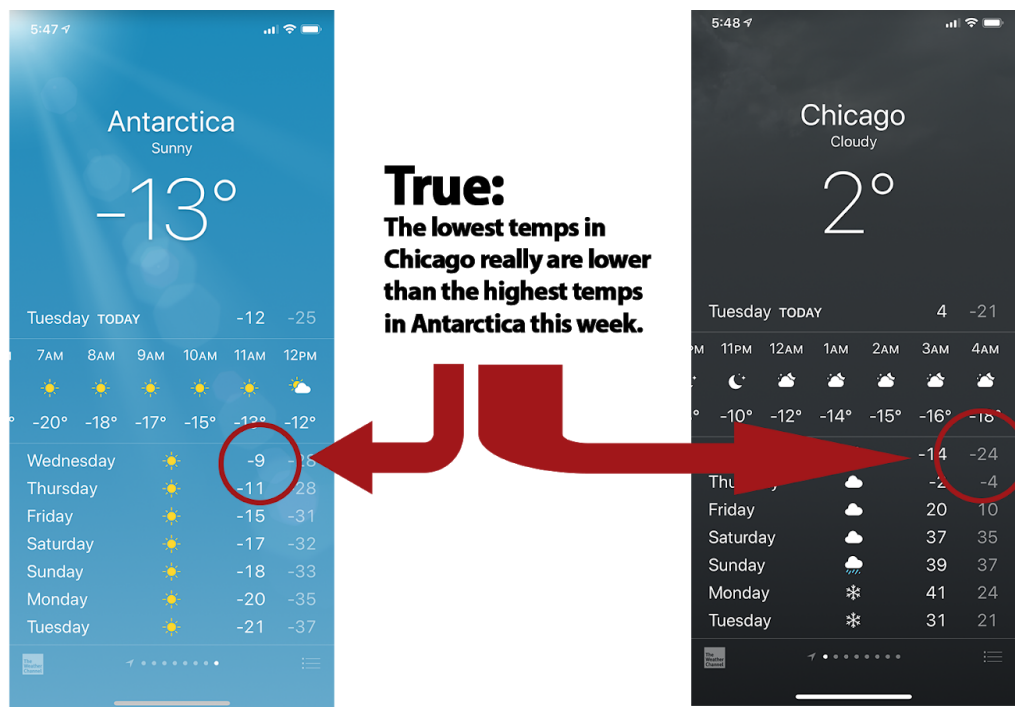


CHICAGO GETS COLDER THAN ANTARCTICA

The brutal Arctic Blast striking the United States this week is making life a living hell for airport workers around the nation, including thousands working in Chicago's O'Hare and Midway.

Here are a few fast facts about the approaching Atomic Arctic Blast.



Fact Check: Is Chicago Colder than Antarctica?

Winter Storm Jayden, as it's being called, has dropped temperatures in the Chicago area to Arctic levels. Low temps at ORD Airport are falling below the high temps in Antarctica on Wednesday, causing massive flight disruptions and travel advisories.

The windchill in Chicago, important for airline workers, is -50.

[CBS NEWS: Other places that are warmer than Chicago this week >](#)



There may be snowplace like Chicago this week, but everyone else is getting hit, too.

United Airlines and American both have important hubs in Chicago, and Southwest has an additional hub over at Midway. The storm is grounding an estimated 1,300 flights in and out of the city this week, meaning travel headaches for any flights that pass through the entire region.

In addition to the cascading effect that the storm is causing from Chicago, there are also direct impacts predicted in airports like Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Detroit. So far, about 100 flights have been canceled or are expected to be canceled at impacted airports within the storm radius.



Airlines are Granting Waivers so people can avoid the storm.

Travelers that want to change their flights because of Winter Storm Jayden should contact their airline to find out if they are eligible for refunds, when they will need to rebook, and other terms.

Check with your airline for specific waiver details:

United Airlines - Waivers and travel advisories in place.

American Airlines - Waivers and travel advisories in place.

Spirit Airlines - Waivers and travel advisories in place.

Philippine Airlines - No travel disruptions as of Jan/29/19 0900 (EST)

Hawaiian Airlines - No travel disruptions as of Jan/29/19 0900 (EST)



Unionized airline workers may be eligible for attendance waivers if they can't get in to work.

Chicago is home to one of the largest collection of unionized airline workers (Machinists District 141 is home to about 42 thousand active and retired airline workers).

Thanks to Union contracts, many of these workers can ask for special attendance considerations whenever a station encounters storms of this magnitude, and can't safely get to work.

IAM141 Airline workers can study up on their [specific agreements from the "Contracts" banner on IAM141.org](#), and follow-up by making a call to their Human Resources Dept.