

Solar Eclipse

Monday, April 8, 2024



Department of
Health

Solar Eclipse Timing and County Pathway In Ohio

- Eclipse will travel across Ohio from southwest to northeast.
- Totality begins in Greenville, Ohio at approximately 3 p.m. and will exit near Avon Lake, Ohio at approximately 3:10 p.m.
- Two to four minutes of totality.
- Nine counties intersect with center line of totality.
- 26 counties are entirely within area of totality. 20 counties have part of county in area of totality.
- 33 counties are outside area of totality – partial eclipse only.

Public Health Preparing for Solar Eclipse

The purpose of this document, is to provide information and awareness that spurs critical thinking for your health jurisdictions' Solar Eclipse planning and readiness.

Solar eclipses occur when the moon moves between the sun and the earth. The moon causes the light of the sun to be blocked from reaching earth, casting a shadow on earth. A total solar eclipse is when the moon completely blocks the sun. The sun's outer atmosphere (called the solar corona) glows around the moon when it is blocking the sun. A partial solar eclipse is when the moon only blocks part of the sun.

On Monday, April 8, 2024, weather permitting, all 50 U.S. states (excluding most of Alaska) will experience at least a partial eclipse, as will most of Canada, all of Mexico, and all countries in Central America.

The 2024 eclipse will present Ohio with unprecedented opportunities for the development of educational programming before, during, and after the event. Because this is such a rare and spectacular event, it is expected that on the day of the eclipse, the local population in center-line communities could triple or quadruple, and the local population in other totality communities could double.

The expected population increases on days before, the day of, and on the day after the eclipse could result in extreme demands and stresses on local infrastructure and services, including hotels, campsites, food, water, restaurants, utilities, law enforcement, fire services, medical facilities, entertainment facilities, parks, etc. For the 2017 total solar eclipse, hotels and campsites were fully booked 6-9 months prior to the event for hundreds of miles in all directions.

Solar Eclipse Questions for Your Agency to Consider For Consequence Management Planning

- Does or will your jurisdiction have Eclipse viewingsites/locations? If so, have you considered the sanitation and environmental health affects?
- Does your jurisdiction anticipate any "pop up" camp sites, food vendor operations etc.? If so, have you considered the sanitation and environmental health affects?
- What affect could the Solar Eclipse have on your health departments' "routine" or daily operations?



Eye Safety During a Solar Eclipse

It is never safe to look at a partial solar eclipse without proper safety equipment or techniques. During the very brief time the sun is in a total solar eclipse, the total eclipse may last only a short period of time, and when looking towards the sun as the moon moves away from blocking the sun, one might get a solar burn on their retina which can cause permanent damage to their eyes. Encourage eye safety and discussions with eye care professionals for people to determine best viewing option for them.

Solar Eclipse Glasses

Encourage the use of ISO/expert approved solar eclipse glasses to view a solar eclipse safely.

Encourage the use of eyewear that meet safety requirements and are manufactured with ISO 12312-2 standard. ISO standard labeling is when looking for solar eclipse glasses and in purchasing them from a trusted source.

Encourage the wearing of solar eclipse glasses during a total solar eclipse except during the very brief time the sun is in total eclipse and even then, with caution.

- How could the services your health department provides to clients be adversely affected?
- Could/should face to face meetings, visitations and appointments be rescheduled?
- What traffic congestion/areas or bottlenecks does your jurisdiction anticipate, if any?
- How does the timing of the eclipse and traffic affect employee commute?
- How could the Solar Eclipse affect your agencies logistics posture (receipt and sending of supplies and material) that day/pre and post timeframe?
- Are schools in your jurisdiction closed that day?
- Are any medical facilities/services, providers in your jurisdiction or healthcare coalition, anticipating being adversely affected during that time frame?

Reference Links/Websites to Learn About the Solar Eclipse:

Solar Eclipse General Information:

- <https://ema.ohio.gov/media-publications/ohio-total-solar-eclipse>
- <https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/eclipses/2024/apr-8-total/overview/>
- <http://nationaleclipse.com/>
- <https://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/>

Solar Eclipse Safety Information:

- <https://www.ooa.org/aws/OOA/pt/sp/solareclipse>
- <https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/eclipses/2024/apr-8-total/safety/>
- <https://nationaleclipse.com/safety.html>
- <https://preventblindness.org/solar-eclipse-and-your-eyes>

Contacts:

Contact your local/ jurisdictional or regional Emergency Management Agency for jurisdictional Solar Eclipse planning efforts.

Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health and Radiation Protection (BEHRP) for environmental issues:

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