



APRIL 8, 2024 SOLAR ECLIPSE

Planning Considerations for Families

For more information:



On Monday, April 8, 2024, weather permitting, nearly all 50 U.S. states will experience at least a partial solar eclipse. 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 appears to totally obscure the sun.

Total solar eclipses are rare and spectacular events. The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806 and the next total solar eclipse in Ohio will be in 2099. Hancock County will have particularly breathtaking views, as the path of totality crosses right along the southeast corner of the county.



SAFETY IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY WHEN VIEWING AND PLANNING FOR A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE



Because Findlay and Hancock County are expected to present such great viewing opportunities, it is expected that the local population could triple or quadruple in the days leading up to and following April 8, 2024. This could result in extreme demands and stresses on local infrastructure and services including grocery stores, cell phone towers, restaurants, law enforcement, fire services, EMS, hospitals, gas stations, etc. **Traffic is expected to be a major concern, especially in the hours immediately following the event.** Community partners in Hancock County have been working together for years to be as prepared as possible to handle the many challenges that may present with this event.

PATH OF TOTAL ECLIPSE THROUGH OHIO

Courtesy of ema.ohio.gov

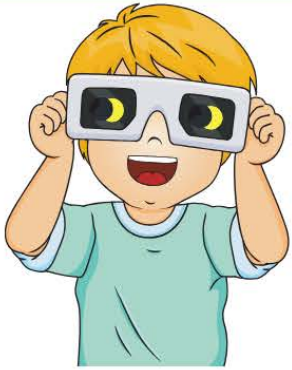


What can my family do to prepare for the solar eclipse?

- Check with your employer to see if your normal shift is going to be adjusted that day.
- All Hancock County schools are either closed or remote learning that day, along with many daycares and preschools. Coordinate for childcare (and backup childcare) well in advance if you are scheduled to work.
- If possible, do not schedule any appointments or meetings for that day.
- Fill up your gas tank prior to the weekend and have a spare gas can filled up at home for back-up.
- Visit the grocery store to stock up on essentials prior to Thursday, April 4th. This is when tourists are expected to start coming into the area.
- If you have an infant in the home, be sure to have enough diapers, wipes, and formula on hand.
- Make sure to have prescription medications filled ahead of time and enough to last through the week.
 - Also consider stocking over-the-counter medications and basic first aid items.
- Be aware that cell phone towers may be down that day due to the influx of people into the area. Consider alternate means of communication (such as email) with family, your employer, and friends.
- Have a plan for safely viewing the eclipse and be educated on the symptoms of solar retinopathy.

HOW TO SAFELY VIEW THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

April 8, 2024



Looking directly at the sun without proper eye protection can cause serious, instant eye damage called **solar retinopathy**. Homemade filters and ordinary sunglasses, even very dark or polarized sunglasses, are **NOT** safe for viewing solar eclipses.

Solar eclipse viewing glasses are thousands of times darker than regular sunglasses and must pass ISO 12312-2 international compliance standards. There are many “knock off” brands out there, so if you purchase solar eclipse viewing glasses, make sure you purchase them from a reputable vendor.

A LIST OF REPUTABLE VENDORS OF SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING GLASSES CAN BE FOUND ON THE AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY'S WEBSITE



If you have children in school, check with your school before purchasing solar eclipse viewing glasses. They may have a plan to distribute glasses to students prior to the event.



Factors that may increase a persons risk for solar retinopathy include:

- Young age
- Clear intraocular lens (a type of replacement lens used in cataract surgery)
- Certain medications (ask your doctor for more information)
- Individual under the influence of substances, or any condition that may alter decision-making

ADDITIONAL SAFETY TIPS FOR VIEWING A SOLAR ECLIPSE:

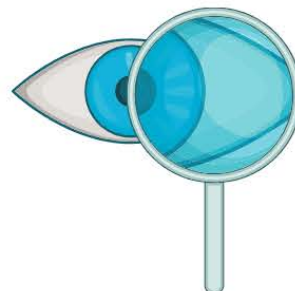
- Always inspect your viewing glasses prior to use. If scratched or damaged, discard them. Read and follow any instructions printed on or packaged with the glasses.
- Always supervise children when viewing a solar eclipse.
- Never remove your viewing glasses while looking at the sun.
- Never look at the eclipse through an unfiltered camera, binoculars, telescope, or any other optical device.
- **Never look through these devices using your eclipse glasses, either. These devices can strengthen the solar rays, damaging the filter, causing injury to your eyes.**

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF SOLAR RETINOPATHY

If you think you may be experiencing symptoms of solar retinopathy, consult with a medical provider immediately.

Signs and symptoms may include:

- Blurry vision
- Central blind spot in one or both eyes
- Objects appearing smaller than they really are
- Headache
- Straight lines appearing wavy



Additional Resources:

