



**DEFIANCE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Public Health *It's What We Do*

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Upcoming Solar Eclipse

Get Prepared Defiance County - Business

April 8, 2024

On Monday, April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will take place. The moon will pass between the Sun and the Earth, causing a complete block of the face of the Sun. The sky will darken as it were dawn or dusk beginning at around 1:55pm and concluding around 4:25pm. Defiance County will experience a total eclipse for approximately 1 minute and 39 seconds. Eclipse viewers should never look directly at the Sun without appropriate eye protection. This will be the last total solar eclipse visible from the contiguous United States until 2044.

We want you to be prepared for this event! Defiance County has created an Eclipse Task Force to prepare for the 2024 Total Solar Eclipse that will take place on April 8th, 2024. Extensive research has gone into preparing for this event including gathering information from cities previously affected by eclipse events.

One of the most challenging planning aspects is determining how many people may visit Defiance County for this event, as we are in the path of totality, have a number of parks and locations to view the eclipse from, and a number of tourist attractions, such as hotels, restaurants, and easy access to major highways.

With the potential for a large influx of crowds, we encourage all businesses and organizations to become familiar with the upcoming eclipse date and begin to prepare accordingly.

Please review the following tips to see how your business or organization can begin to prepare for the Eclipse.



How to Prepare Your Business



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- **Back-up Plans:** Prepare for a potential increase in customers over the days leading up to and a day or two after the eclipse; have needed supplies on hand early; consider extending hours of operation to meet customer needs and have back-up plans if staff members are delayed due to traffic issues. Avoid scheduling major events not eclipse related (funerals).
- **Employee Preparedness:** Encourage employees to have a full tank of gas; have their own resources ready at home; day care needs met etc. by Thursday, April 4, 2024. Gas stations may be very busy or waiting on resupply. Make sure your staff can get to work and give them reminders to plan ahead.
- **Cash/Financial Transactions:** Be prepared for more cash transactions; consider having extra tills set up to accommodate more cash transactions. You may have larger than normal deposits over the weekend. Check ahead of time if your bank will be open on Monday, April 8, 2024.
 - **HOW DOES YOUR CREDIT/DEBIT CARD MACHINE ACCESS THE INTERNET?** If you use cell service/cell wireless service for your transactions, be prepared with a back-up plan. We anticipate a high demand for cellular service during the impact period, especially Monday, April 8, 2024. You may find you are unable to make these kind of transactions so plan a back-up method to meet your customers' needs.
- **Communications:** Anticipate possible cellular service disruptions due to the increased demand. Visitors may have urgent requests to use your landline business phone if cell service is limited; decide how you want to handle these requests and make sure employees know what to do. If there is a 911 emergency and you have a landline, be ready to help!
- **Regularly Scheduled Deliveries/Products:** Evaluate when you receive your regular deliveries; deliveries scheduled for Monday, April 8 may be significantly delayed due to the overwhelming number of vehicles trying to come in and leave Defiance County. Consider rescheduling for Tuesday and/or ordering extra the week prior. Also, consider ordering to ensure that you have enough product on hand to serve the potential influx of customers who may be utilizing your business/organization.
- **Restrooms:** Be aware many visitors will be camping in authorized and potentially unauthorized locations; expect customers who may be primarily interested in using business restrooms. Public restrooms will be in short supply and port-a-potties will be in limited locations and with limited service capacity.
- **Weather & Your Business:** If conditions are foggy or cloudy, visitors with hotel or camping reservations will most likely not change their plans. The "day-trippers" may move to a location with better viewing but there is no way to predict this. Monitoring the weather forecast in the 10 days leading up to April 8th will hopefully help you to prepare.
- **Viewing safety:** Determine if you will provide solar glasses for employees and/or customers. If so, order them as soon as possible and from a reputable source to ensure proper eye protection while viewing the eclipse & certified ISO 12312-2.
- **Visit & Review Eclipse Information:** For more information regarding the eclipse, visit NASA.gov or Eclipse2024.org.