



**DEFIANCE COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Public Health *It's What We Do*

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Upcoming Solar Eclipse

Get Prepared Defiance County Residents

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 residents to become familiar with the upcoming eclipse date and begin to prepare accordingly.

Please review the following tips to see how you can begin to prepare for the Eclipse.



How to Prepare Your Family & Yourself



- **Viewing Safety:** The only safe way to look directly at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun is through special-purpose solar filters, such as “eclipse glasses” or hand-held viewers that meet the ISO 12312-2 international standard. Homemade filters or ordinary sunglasses, even very dark ones, are not safe for looking at the Sun. Go to the American Astronomical Society webpage for approved filters: <https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/solar-filters>.
 - DO NOT look at the uneclipsed or partially eclipsed Sun with the naked eye or through unfiltered camera, telescope, binoculars, or other optical device. DO NOT look at the Sun through an optical device while using eclipse glasses or viewers – the concentrated solar rays will damage the filter and enter your eyes causing serious and potentially permanent injury.
- **Increased Tourism:** Defiance County expects a significant increase in visitors & tourists to the County between Friday, April 5th and Tuesday, April 9th 2024.
 - Traffic in and around the county will be increased and potentially heavy on all major streets & highways. Allow extra travel time and patience throughout this weekend.
 - Expect increased wait times and use of local restaurants, gas stations, grocery, & retail stores. Do what you can ahead of time, allow extra time to get to and through these services, and please show visitors a warm welcome to our County.
- **Appointments:** We encourage you to schedule any important appointments or activities prior to Friday, April 5th or after Tuesday, April 9th. Check to see if locations have limited hours or closures on Monday, April 8th. By scheduling early and avoiding this weekend, you can beat the crowds and allow these locations to serve immediate needs or the visitors to our area.
- **Groceries, Supplies, Gas, & Cash:** Supplies are likely to be in high demand and possibly low supply during this weekend. Please plan to shop ahead for groceries & essential supplies before Thursday, April 5th or after Tuesday, April 9th. Gas up your car prior to Thursday, April 5th. Consider having some cash on hand for any purchases you need for this weekend, especially for Monday, April 8th, in case of internet issues the may disrupt credit card services.
- **911 Service:** PLEASE remember that 911 is for true emergencies, such as car crashes, medical emergencies, fires, etc. Law enforcement will be very busy patrolling the streets and serving those in most need so please allow them to protect and serve the community. For non-emergent questions, please contact local law enforcement directly or the Defiance County Health Department.
- **Internet & Cellular Service:** With the influx of tourists, we anticipate potential interruptions or issues with internet and cellular service during this weekend. Develop a communication plan with family and friends in case these issues should occur. See if any neighbors have a land-line phone in case of emergencies so you can reach 911 or local law enforcement for help.
- **Visit & Review Eclipse Information:** For more information regarding the eclipse, visit NASA.gov or Eclipse2024.org.