**Solar Eclipse Planning**

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On Monday, April 8, 2024, citizens within a 124-mile-wide band in the State of Ohio will experience a total solar eclipse. The path of the eclipse will impact the following counties in the central region: Hardin, Wyandot, Crawford, Logan, Marion, Morrow, Union, Delaware, Franklin, Knox, Licking, Madison. However, all of Ohio’s 88 counties will be impacted by people traveling through, finding lodging, or needing other resources, which includes healthcare.

The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806. The next total solar eclipse in Ohio will be in the year 2444.

Ohio is within a one-day drive for 70% of the country. Many people will be driving to Ohio to view the eclipse. During past eclipses, counties that experienced totality have doubled, or tripled in population for the event.

A map of the solar eclipse

Description automatically generated with low confidence**Key Points:** Expect to be impacted.

* Increased communications and traffic will stress local infrastructure.
* Many travel amenities (food, fuel, hotels, etc.) will be booked or may experience shortages.
* Expect increased travel time for staff, patients, or clients that day.
* Consider the necessity of appointments, the access to your agencies, and an expansion of medical resources both staff and supplies.
* Review your memorandum of agreements, emergency operations plan, communications plans, capacity, capabilities, and any gaps for to your agency.

**Ophthalmology:** Dr. Rogers has completed 2 FAQs for their professional society (AAPOS), both are available on-line via links below

* + [Solar Retinopathy - American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (aapos.org)](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https*3a*2f*2faapos.org*2fglossary*2fsolar-retinopathy&c=E,1,YxPV_-xyxUXMyYzDzNLSwcGOsYy5MN2DpsEeFu05huGI08UVA7dMoIfTb9ilIsqWUvUa-w6oF8MHFLv8iDIxpaMFCB_HJHbOzvttBfpeK_usXNBFCZoTY_E,&typo=1__;JSUlJSU!!NiUAmZJ8c1GNWg!RKM6Gaot9LHMRzvkCbVKIkccBCrE4THSVD7ydEojWB2VPN7YuXMGZ_5N_5n3aX6UHCVME3tBUwsjzIr1GvM7aJwzQQ$)
  + [How to Safely View a Solar Eclipse - American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (aapos.org)](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https*3a*2f*2faapos.org*2fglossary*2fhow-to-safely-view-a-solar-eclipse&c=E,1,5i2OB7xiCRHZZ13v0UgxN8OES8Z55Aw8zqSNrgm7tEHK_qZoIc0Pq6v58mi7NChRaLrtnIVSyBc4OABaEXqe8WCZAmG9i1IFAgNm4S7WFQ,,&typo=1__;JSUlJSU!!NiUAmZJ8c1GNWg!RKM6Gaot9LHMRzvkCbVKIkccBCrE4THSVD7ydEojWB2VPN7YuXMGZ_5N_5n3aX6UHCVME3tBUwsjzIr1GvNwbvsgCA$)

**Websites:**

State of Ohio - <https://eclipse.ohio.gov/>

National website - <https://nationaleclipse.com/index.html>

American Astronomical Society - <https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/solar-filters>

**Eclipse After Action Report Objectives:**

**Objective 1. Plan for contingency management involving a surge of patients from the eclipse event.**

Capability 4: Medical Surge

Objective 1: Plan for a Medical Surge

Activity 1. Incorporate Medical Surge Planning into a Health Care Organization Emergency Operations Plan

Activity 2. Incorporate Medical Surge into an Emergency Medical Services Emergency Operations Plan

Objective 2: Respond to a Medical Surge

Activity 1. Implement Emergency Department and Inpatient Medical Surge Response

**Objective 2. Utilize existing communication and situational awareness platforms (i.e. COHDIMS, EMTrack, EMResource, RTAS, TENS) in real time to assist with coordination and information sharing during the eclipse response.**

Capability 2: Health Care and Medical Response Coordination

Objective 2: Utilize Information Sharing Procedures and Platforms

Activity 3. Utilize Communications Systems and Platforms

Objective 3: Coordinate Response Strategy, Resources, and Communications

Activity 2: Coordinate Incident Action Planning During an Emergency

**Objective 3. Engage key stakeholders to provide input, acknowledgement, and approval of strategic and operational planning during the eclipse event. (blood banks, SOCC, trauma, coalition members, transportation agencies, regional and state partners)**

Capability 1. Foundation for Health Care and Medical Readiness

Objective 5: Ensure Preparedness is Sustainable

Activity 2: Engage Health Care Executives

Activity 3: Engage Clinicians

Activity 4: Engage Community Leaders

Capability 3: Continuity of Health Care Service Delivery

Objective 1: Identify Essential Functions for Health Care Delivery

Objective 2: Plan for Continuity of Operations

Activity 1. Develop a Health Care Organization Continuity of Operations Plan

**Objective 4. Conduct inclusive pre-planning to identify support and resource needs to respond to the whole community during the eclipse event.**

Capability 1. Foundation for Health Care and Medical Readiness

Objective 2: Identify Risks and Needs

Activity 2. Assess Regional Health Care Resources

Activity 4. Assess Community Planning for Children, Pregnant Women, Seniors, Individuals with Access and Functional Needs, Including People with Disabilities, and Others with Unique Needs