



## HEALTH ADVISORY

### Alert: Total Solar Eclipse Affecting New York State

#### **Guidance for Hospitals, Diagnostic & Treatment Centers, Dialysis Centers, Nursing Homes, Homecare Agencies, Hospice, and Adult Care Facilities**

New York State will experience a total solar eclipse, occurring on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Depending upon your location the timing will vary; the path of totality stretches from Western to Northern New York. It is expected that this event will have a significant impact on the State. This document is intended to assist hospitals, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, home health agencies, hospice and all other health care providers plan for the upcoming total solar eclipse on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Please take the time to review this document to prepare your facilities and staff.

#### **For all providers:**

- Staffing
  - Depending upon your facility or patient location, staff could be impacted by increased congestion on the roads due to visitors from out of the area.
  - All staff should anticipate longer travel times and should expect traffic delays to and from facilities or patients' homes.
  - All staff should anticipate public transportation delays and cancellations.
  - Remind staff to schedule more time for travel to and from assignments that day.
  - Review shift change and staff report times to the facility and adjust, if necessary, to avoid delays in staff reporting for their shift.
  - Additionally, some staff may not be able to leave due to traffic delays and congestion; plan for accommodating those staff.
  - Messaging to staff in advance of the eclipse should include the above information and reminders on how to prepare.
- Facility Command Center Activation
  - Work with your leadership to determine if you will activate a command center for the eclipse.
    - Determine the operational periods and staffing plans for the command center, as appropriate. Communicate this information to your County Emergency Management Office and New York State Department of Health Regional Office.

- Plan briefings with leadership well in advance to ensure sufficient planning.
  - Consider food, medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, linen, and medical gas.
  - If congestion is significant, it could impact supply chain and deliveries in the days following the eclipse.
- Local Health Department/Emergency Services
  - Work with your Local Health Department and Emergency Management division as needed and appropriate.
  - Review/confirm how to request additional resources.

### **Hospitals**

- Elective surgery scheduling
  - Consider selectively scheduling surgeries on the day of the eclipse or rescheduling them for a different date.
- Discuss Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) planning, if additional resources will be requested to the area, where these resources will be sourced, how staffing and patient surge needs will be handled during the event.
- Consider temporarily increasing discharge materials (medication) given to patients to avoid the need to imminently fill a prescription.
- Rural Hospitals
  - Maintain awareness of transfer of patients to hospitals of higher level of care. Transportation routes and available transportation modalities.

### **Nursing Home/Adult Care/Home Care/Hospice**

- Notify patients of the eclipse and what to expect, and that providers may be late.
- Determine which patients need to be seen daily and which ones can have visits postponed.
- Remind staff of the eclipse and ramifications for travel for themselves and their families.
- Recommend visits by family or friends be postponed or scheduled for a different day.
- Conduct a call-down of staff to determine availability.

### **Viewing Guidance for Staff, Patients, Residents, and Visitors**

- For staff working the day of the event, try to allow them a safe way to view the eclipse. This could be through a viewing party held on your facility campus or livestreamed for those that are unable to leave their units.
- Review eclipse related health guidance.



## Department of Health

- Do not look directly at the sun during the eclipse; doing so could cause temporary or permanent damage.
  - Sunglasses will not protect your eyes; individuals will need glasses certified to International Organization for Standardization 12312-2 from a trusted source.
    - [Eclipse Eye Safety](#)
    - [Safe Glasses/Filter Suppliers](#)
- Springtime weather in New York can vary greatly and change quickly. Those planning to go outside to watch the eclipse should check local weather forecasts and ensure appropriate attire.

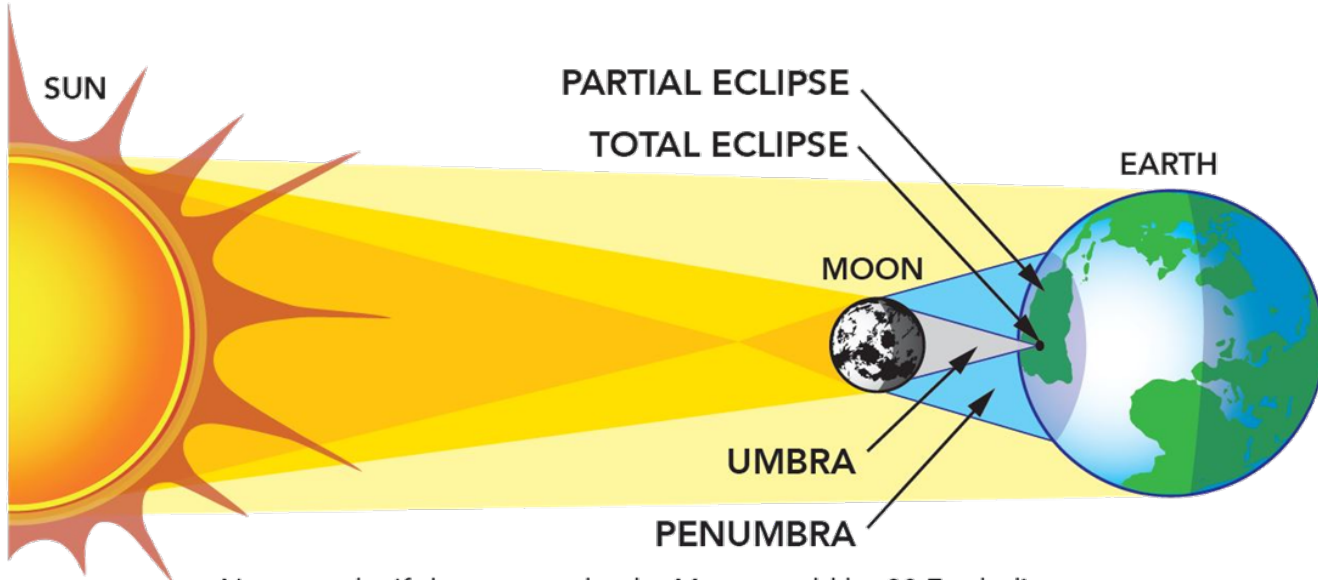
APRIL 8  
2024

# Experience the Total Solar Eclipse



## What is a total solar eclipse?

For a total eclipse to take place, the Sun, Moon, and Earth must be in a direct line. The people who see the total eclipse are in the center of the Moon's shadow when it hits Earth. The sky will darken, as if it were twilight. Weather permitting, people in the path of a total solar eclipse can see the Sun's corona, the outer atmosphere of the Sun.

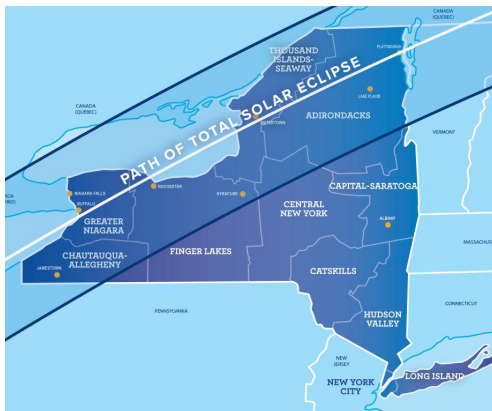


Not to scale: If drawn to scale, the Moon would be 30 Earth diameters away from Earth. The Sun would be 400 times that distance.



## WHERE TO WATCH

Find a clear spot with a good view of the sky.



Map courtesy of I Love NY



## WHEN & HOW LONG

On April 8, the total eclipse visits southwestern New York beginning at 3:16 pm EDT and exits the northeastern part of the state at 3:29 pm EDT.

A total eclipse can last up to 4 minutes, depending on your location.



## HOW TO WATCH

You can see the Sun and an eclipse with special eclipse or solar viewing glasses. NEVER look directly at the Sun without appropriate eyewear.

Regular sunglasses are NOT safe to view an eclipse.



## WARNING

Looking at the sun is dangerous.  
Refer to safety instructions on other side.

# Viewing Safety Tips



## Eye Safety

- Do not look directly at the sun during the eclipse (except during the limited time of totality when the sun is completely covered by the moon—and even then, with caution).
- Sunglasses will NOT protect your eyes during an eclipse.
- If your eyes are exposed to the sun without the appropriate protection, it will cause “eclipse blindness,” which can temporarily or permanently damage your eyes.
- One of the best ways to view a solar eclipse is through a pinhole projector where you look at a projected image made through a pinhole in cardboard paper.
- Another way to view a solar eclipse without harming your eyes is by using International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 12312-2 certified eclipse glasses from a trusted source.



Scan to build your own pinhole projector!

## Skin Safety

- The weather in April can be warm and sunny. Or partly cloudy.
- The sun can be bright, including during the partial phases of a solar eclipse. It can damage your skin, even in cooler temperatures or on a cloudy day, so wear sunscreen and protective clothing.

## Traffic Safety

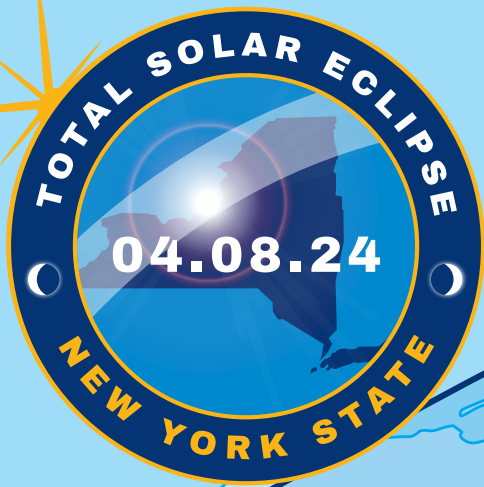
- Traffic volume is expected to be very high on the day of the eclipse.
- Streets or bridges may be closed and depending on your location you may run into traffic jams. Prepare by bringing water, gasoline, and food in your vehicle.

## Weather/Storm Safety

- The weather in April can also be cold, snowy, or have significant rainfall.
- If needed, be prepared with the appropriate clothing/footwear—such as jackets and boots—and alternate plans should the weather present extreme hazards.
- Know Before You Go: Check public land regulations and conditions, especially of trails.

## Outdoor Precautions

- If you will be camping or outdoors, be aware of ticks, mosquitoes, and plants like poison ivy that can cause skin irritations.
- Cover your skin as completely as possible. Wear shoes and socks, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt when outdoors for a long period.
- Use mosquito and tick repellents, which should always be applied accordingly.




**PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY!**  
 VISIT [ILOVENY.COM/ECLIPSE](https://www.iloveny.com/eclipse)  
**I ♥ NY**

## APRIL 8, 2024

LOCATION	DURATION OF TOTALITY	PARTIAL ECLIPSE BEGINS	FULL ECLIPSE BEGINS	FULL ECLIPSE ENDS	PARTIAL ECLIPSE ENDS
Jamestown	2m 51s	2:03:38 pm	3:17:55 pm	3:20:46 pm	4:31:43 pm
Buffalo	3m 46s	2:04:56 pm	3:18:20 pm	3:22:06 pm	4:32:10 pm
Rochester	3m 39s	2:07:00 pm	3:20:08 pm	3:23:47 pm	4:33:26 pm
Syracuse	1m 27s	2:09:01 pm	3:23:03 pm	3:24:30 pm	4:34:49 pm
Watertown	3m 39s	2:10:05 pm	3:22:33 pm	3:26:12 pm	4:35:01 pm
Lake Placid	3m 21s	2:13:02 pm	3:25:07 pm	3:28:29 pm	4:36:43 pm
Plattsburgh	3m 34s	2:14:03 pm	3:25:44 pm	3:29:18 pm	4:37:07 pm

\*Times shown in local time (EDT)