



Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Thomas A. Berger
Director

- Emergency Management Agency
- 9-1-1 Administrative Services
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Special Hazards Response Unit
- Citizen Corps Council
- Environmental Enforcement Unit

Eclipse Planning Guide for Local Businesses

Allen County will experience a total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8th 2024 between 1:54pm and 4:26pm. We will be completely in the path of totality for 3 minutes and 51 seconds with maximum totality at 3:11pm.

Allen County expects a significant increase in visitors to the area between Friday, April 5th and Tuesday, April 9th. This is a great opportunity for local businesses; however, preparedness will be crucial for this event. Grocery stores, gas stations, hotels, restaurants, transportation services, retail stores, and other establishments will experience heavier than normal business.

What You Can Do to Prepare Your Business:

- **Back-up Plans / Scheduling:** Prepare for an increase in customers; have needed supplies on hand; consider extending hours of operation to meet customer needs and have back-up plans if staff is delayed due to traffic. Avoid scheduling major events that are not eclipse related, for example: 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 4th. Gas stations may be very busy or may be waiting on resupply. Make sure your staff can get to work.
- **Cash / Financial Transactions:**
 - Be prepared for more cash transactions. You may have larger than normal cash 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 8th. You may find you are not able to make transactions; have a back-up plan to meet your customers' needs.
- **Communications:** Anticipate possible cellular service disruptions due to 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 it is a 911 emergency and you have a landline, be ready to help!*

- **Regularly Scheduled Deliveries:** Evaluate when you receive your regular deliveries; deliveries for Monday, April 8th may be significantly delayed due to overwhelming number of vehicles trying to come into and leaving Allen County. Consider rescheduling for Tuesday or order extra the week prior.
- **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 in limited locations may be at capacity until serviced.
- **Weather and Your Business:** If conditions are cloudy, visitors with hotel reservations will most likely not change their plans, but the day-trippers may move to a location with better viewing conditions; there is no way to predict this, but monitoring the weather forecast the week prior to April 8th will be useful for your business. Even if it is cloudy, you can still experience the darkening effect of the eclipse.
- **Viewing Safety:** If your business will be selling or distributing eclipse viewing glasses and handheld solar viewers ensure they are certified with a designated ISO 12312-2 international standard.

For more information:

<https://www.seetheeclipse.org/>

<https://ema.ohio.gov/media-publications/ohio-total-solar-eclipse>