



CITY OF ST JOSEPH HEALTH DEPARTMENT TOTAL PREPARATION INFORMATION SERIES

June 23, 2017

WHAT IS AN ECLIPSE AND WHY PREPARE?

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon blocks any part of the sun. On Monday, August 21, 2017, a solar eclipse will be visible (weather permitting) across all of North America. The whole continent will experience a partial eclipse lasting 2 to 3 hours. Halfway through the event, anyone within a roughly 70-mile-wide path from Oregon to South Carolina (<https://go.nasa.gov/2pC0lhe>) will experience a brief total eclipse, when the moon completely blocks the sun's bright face for up to 2 minutes 40 seconds, turning day into night and making visible the otherwise hidden solar corona — the Sun's outer atmosphere — one of nature's most awesome sights. Bright stars and planets will become visible as well.

St. Joseph is located in the path of the total eclipse for one of the longest durations of obscuration. Our community is anticipating record numbers of visitors for this phenomenal event. Preparations are underway that involve government, businesses and organizations large and small. Schools have been dismissed for the day and Trails West! has extended its run from three days to four in order to encompass the day of the eclipse. The community is getting prepared for the eclipse; are you?

Things to consider, which will be addressed in future issues of this special Total Preparation Information Series:

- Traffic – St. Joseph roads will be more congested than normal traffic patterns
- Crowd Safety – Personal comfort, safety, and injury prevention, could all be compromised if you get caught in a large crowd of people and are unable to move freely

- Viewing – Looking directly at the sun is harmful to vision; eclipse observers should use glasses with special protective lenses
- Appointments – Confirm appointments and allow additional time to navigate to your destination
- Employment – Traditional duties at work may be affected by the influx of people
- Communications – Cell phone service will likely be interrupted or spotty
- Day Care – Younger school-aged children will need care during a time they would typically be in school
- Heat, Hydration & Sun Safety – Stock up on water and stay hydrated, and use sunscreen appropriately

Preparations should include planning for how to communicate, navigate and hydrate. Observers should also be aware of the potential harm to their vision and be prepared to view the eclipse with the appropriate safeguards. Though the event is a couple of months from now, early preparation will allow everyone to more fully enjoy the phenomenon of the eclipse.

Content support from <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>

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