



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2024-04D

Solar Eclipse Preparation

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will cross a 124-mile-wide band in the State of Ohio, and other areas of Ohio will experience a partial eclipse. Only 21 total solar eclipses have crossed the lower 48 states during the existence of the United States of America. The last total solar eclipse visible in Ohio was in 1806, and the next total solar eclipse will not pass through Ohio until the year 2099; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that the State of Ohio will see an influx of out-of-state tourists coming to witness this event and enjoy other attractions the State has to offer; and

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio intends to provide its residents and out-of-state tourists with a safe and enjoyable viewing experience; and

WHEREAS, in preparation for the April 8th solar eclipse, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency has been coordinating with state, local, and private partners to prepare for increased demands on gas, food, shelter, traffic, and cell phone service; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with its vision and purpose to positively impact the quality of life and safety for Ohio residents and the motoring public, the Ohio State Highway Patrol is prepared to utilize its resources to provide traffic safety services on Ohio's highways, offer statewide emergency response services, and support local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Transportation has increased staffing for traffic control and incident management at major highways and interchanges, studied highway congestion models for proactive planning, and prepared rest areas for demand increases; and fully staffed operators at the Traffic Management Center, and opened their District Headquarters' Emergency Management Center, and deployed Emergency and Communications staff at Ohio EMA Joint Information Center; and placed drones at critical high traffic areas for traffic monitoring, and used highway digital message signs to communicate safety messages and road conditions; and procured Heart of it All eclipse special protective glasses for rest area visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has created an online resource page for educators and school administrators on logistics and curricular approaches to educating students and the community about the eclipse; and


WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has provided optimal viewing experiences at state parks and wildlife areas within the path of the total eclipse, coordinated programming to educate visitors about the eclipse and Ohio's natural landscape, increased staffing for traffic control, and procured 100,000 eclipse special protective glasses along with many other public health and safety enhancements for state parks and wildlife areas; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Development and Tourism Ohio are helping Ohioans and visitors create their own eclipse adventure by showcasing the very best all counties in the path of totality have to offer through an interactive map featuring a wide range of events, attractions, and viewing locations—complete with everything to plan a weekend full of memories that will last a lifetime in #OhioTheHeartofItAll.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, do hereby order and direct that:

1. All State departments and agencies be at the ready and prepared to utilize their personnel and resources as necessary to protect the lives, safety, health, and property of the citizens of Ohio and all those traveling to or through the State during the period of April 5, 2024 through April 9, 2024.
2. As set forth in Sections 5502.22 and 5502.28 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Executive Director of the Ohio Emergency Management Agency shall coordinate all activities for preparedness and response within the State, and all State departments and agencies shall cooperate and extend and utilize resources upon request of the Executive Director.
3. All law enforcement agencies of the state shall upon the request of a local law enforcement officer or in the event of an emergency be prepared to utilize sworn personnel and resources to assist local law enforcement agencies and officers and respond to emergencies, in order to contribute to the safety and security of Ohio citizens, tourists, and those passing through the State.
4. If requested by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Administrative Services may suspend the purchasing and contracting requirements in accordance with Chapter 125 of the Ohio Revised Code for those State agencies providing personnel and resources pursuant to this Order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the State of Ohio and those visiting and traveling through our State.

I signed this Executive Order on March 13, 2024, in Columbus, Ohio, and it will expire at the end of the day on April 10, 2024, or sooner if I so order.


Mike DeWine, Governor



ATTEST:

Frank LaRose, Secretary of State