



## Eclipse Planning Guide for Local Businesses

Shelby County will experience a total solar eclipse on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 between 1:54 pm and 4:25 pm. We will be completely in the path of totality for 3 minutes and 53 seconds with maximum totality at 3:13 pm.

Shelby County expects a significant increase in visitors to the area between Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> 2024. 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 4<sup>th</sup> 2024. 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<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 2024. 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 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 may be significantly delayed due to the overwhelming number of vehicles trying to come into and leaving Miami 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 8<sup>th</sup> 2024 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.visitsidneyshelby.com/the-2024-solar-eclipse-shelby-county-style/>

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