

## Important Safety Guidelines for Viewing the Total Solar Eclipse

The Public Safety Unit would like to remind community members that a TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE will occur on Monday April 8, 2024. The eclipse will begin at approximately 2:14 pm and end at 4:36. The full eclipse will occur at 3:27 PM and will only last 1 minute 27 seconds. It is crucial to prioritize safety while enjoying this awe-inspiring celestial event. As Kahnawà:ke (amongst many other parts of Canada) lies on the eclipse's path, many of us will have the opportunity to witness this remarkable phenomenon firsthand. However, it is essential to remember that observing a solar eclipse requires precautionary measures to protect our eyes and skin, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience.

While experts have determined it is safe to look directly at the sun during a certain portion of the Eclipse, it is ultimately the safest to avoid looking at all.

### Do's and Don'ts about Eclipse Eye Safety:

During the eclipse, except for the brief total phase when the Moon completely blocks the Sun's bright face, it is unsafe to look directly at the Sun without specialized eye protection for solar viewing. The reason this is because our natural reflexes usually prevent us from looking directly at the sun during "normal" times. As the eclipse starts and finishes, natural reflexes are effectively disabled and viewing any part of the bright Sun through a camera lens, binoculars, or a telescope without a special-purpose solar filter secured over the front of the optics can cause severe eye injury.

### Can I safely be outside during an Eclipse?

The eclipse will result in a different or odd experience but the danger occurs if people intend to look directly at the sun, if they are **NOT GOING TO LOOK UP**, there is no risk and people can continue functioning outdoors as usual.

### Eye Safety for Total Solar Eclipses:

Here are some important safety guidelines to follow during a total solar eclipse:

- View the Sun through eclipse glasses or a handheld solar viewer during the partial eclipse phases before and after totality.
- You can observe the eclipse directly without proper eye protection only when the Moon completely obscures the Sun's bright face – during the brief and spectacular period known as totality. It is safe when you can no longer see any part of the Sun through eclipse glasses or a solar viewer.
- As soon as you see even a little bit of the bright Sun reappear after totality, immediately put your eclipse glasses back on or use a handheld solar viewer to look at the Sun.

### Young Children Eye Safety for Total Solar Eclipses:

Potential damage to the eyes is sufficient that most schools in the path have cancelled classes. It is therefore highly recommended that if you have young children who may not be able or willing to respect the above eye safety, young children should be positioned so they **CANNOT DIRECTLY LOOK UP AT THE SUN**.

The only exception would be during the totality (full stage starting at 3:26:49 pm ending 3:28:16) it is possible to safely look at the eclipse but once sun becomes visible safety, precautions should be resumed.

### Skin Safety:

Even during a partial or annular eclipse, or during the partial phases of a total eclipse, the Sun will still be very bright. If you plan to watch the entire eclipse, you may be exposed to direct sunlight for hours. Remember to take precautions to protect your skin by wearing sunscreen, a hat, and protective clothing to prevent sunburn and skin damage.

### Info Videos:

For additional information and educational videos about the total solar eclipse, please visit this website: <https://www.space.com/6-safety-tips-total-solar-eclipse-april-2024>

Wishing you a fantastic and safe observation of the total solar eclipse!

**Sata'tenikonrà:rak/Take Care of Yourself!**