

Child Care and the Solar Eclipse of 2017

Dear Early Educators:

The Early Learning Division is providing the following information to help you prepare your program and families for the upcoming solar eclipse on August 21, 2017. The health and safety of children and staff is important during the solar eclipse event. Note the information below comes from the cited expert organizations.

What: During the solar eclipse, the moon will cover all or part of the sun for up to three hours. Depending on location, the eclipse will occur from about 9:00 am-11:45 am with a total eclipse between about 10:19-10:21 am.

Where: In Oregon, the “path of totality,” where the sun is completely covered, is from Lincoln City, across Salem, through Sisters, Redmond, Prineville, John Day, and Ontario. Throughout the rest Oregon, the eclipse will be seen as a partial eclipse.

1. **Eye Safety:** Looking at the eclipse directly can cause severe and permanent eye damage. Even with glasses such as those shown below, children need very close supervision.
 - Be sure children keep the glasses on for the whole eclipse if they are outside
 - Consider viewing the eclipse on live video stream: <https://www.nasa.gov/eclipselive>. The website also has great educational material providers can use with children.
 - Use certified solar eclipse glasses or solar viewers when looking at the sun, except during the brief total eclipse when the moon covers the sun. Ordinary sunglasses will not provide adequate protection. Certified glasses and viewers will be marked with the international standard mark ISO 12312-2.
 - Don't look at the sun through a camera, binoculars or other optical device while using solar glasses or viewers.
 - Remove glasses or viewers only when the moon covers the sun and it is totally dark. When the sun begins to reappear, use your glasses or viewer.

Expert Resource: [Oregon Academy of Ophthalmology](http://www.oregonophth.com) (English Only)



Figure 5 - Check with local science museums, schools and astronomy clubs for eclipse glasses—or purchase an ISO 12312-2 compliant and CE certified pair of these special shades! From <https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/eclipse-who-what-where-when-and-how> (English/Spanish)

SAFELY Observing THE SUN

- **WARNING!** Never look directly at the sun without proper eye protection. You can seriously injure your eyes.
- View the eclipse with special eclipse glasses. Regular sunglasses are not safe to view the eclipse.

2. **Traffic:** Oregon has a population of roughly four million people. An additional one million people are expected to come to Oregon to view this event. Due to traffic concerns, some child care staff and parents may have a difficult time getting to child care homes and centers for drop off or pick up.

- Discuss pick up and drop off back up plans with parents.
- Expect traffic changes, delays, and closures.
- Stay off the roads as much as possible to allow emergency vehicles to travel.
- Pack food and water in your car, and KEEP A FULL TANK OF GAS.
- Use [trip check](#) or call 511 to get the latest traffic information.

Expert Resource: [Oregon Department of Transportation](#) (Google translate available)

3. **Emergency Supplies:** Due to the number of eclipse related visitors and events, expect shortages of supplies.

- Stock a complete emergency kits and supplies and a three-day supply of food, water and medication.
- Update your existing emergency plans and modify them for this event.
- Purchase the food and supplies you typically need in advance of August 21, 2017.

Expert Resource: [Center for Disease Control Emergency Preparedness](#) (English/Spanish)

4. **Health and Hygiene:** Due to the number of eclipse related visitors and events, expect shortages of supplies. Heat and food related illnesses may also be of concern. There is an expected increase in the number of food carts showing up in areas of the state that will be in the path of totality. Sometimes food carts show up that the environmental health agencies are unaware of and may not be inspected.

- Stock a complete emergency first aid kit and supplies.
- Post poison control number and 911.
- Check medications that may be at your facility and have a sufficient amount of medications on hand in case of a delay in emergency personnel arriving to your child care site.
- Use caution when eating from food carts. Check whether the vendor is licensed.
- Make sure children are drinking enough of water to keep them hydrated.
- Stock up on appropriate sunscreen and or UV protective clothing and insect repellent.

Expert Resource: [Oregon Health Authority](#) (Google translate available)

5. **Communication:** If there is too great a demand cell phone usage may be disrupted. Communication between child care homes and centers may be affected.

- Create a plan in case communication is disrupted.
- Discuss communication plans with families.

Additional Expert Resources:

OHA website: (google translate available) [click here](#)

Office of Emergency Management: (google translate available) [click here](#)

NASA: Education resources: (Spanish Resources Available) [click here](#)

Spanish websites:

NASA [click here](#)

NASA flyer [click here](#)

NASA safety [click here](#)