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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE:** August 18, 2017

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### Protect your vision when viewing the solar eclipse

A rare event is about to occur, on Monday August 21, 2017 there will be a “total” solar eclipse. A “total” solar eclipse is when the orbit of the moon passes entirely in front of the sun and many will want to see this spectacular event. However, extreme care and caution should be considered to observe the eclipse safely. Our area will be able to see an 80% eclipse of the sun beginning at 1 p.m. and ending around 4 p.m. on this day. Local health departments are reminding residents to take safety precautions to protect of their eyes/vision if they choose to observe this spectacular event.

As the eclipse begins, the sun will disappear and it will appear darker outside. However, the little slivers of sunlight that peak out from around the moon are dangerous and can damage the eye. Remember:

- Slivers of sunlight glow just as brightly as on a day there is not a solar eclipse
- Even quick little glances add up
- Sun damage to the eye might not be obvious right away

To protect your eyes, wear certified eye protection for the entire time you view the solar eclipse. The only time it is safe to watch with the naked eye is during the brief window of “totality”, when the sun is completely blocked by the moon. But “totality” will only be visible from a ribbon of land that is 70 miles wide that stretches across the central U.S. The rest of the country, including Northern Michigan, only see a partial eclipse and will need eye protection the entire time.



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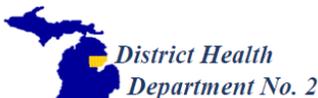
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Safe eye protection for a solar eclipse is not just using regular sunglasses. To view a solar eclipse, eyewear needs to be thousands of times darker than regular sunglasses. NASA urges people to buy special eclipse glasses, and do not use makeshift or homemade filters to look at the eclipse directly.

- Be diligent that the glasses remain covering the eyes completely while watching, especially with children.
- Throw away glasses with damage like scratches or pinholes that allow light to come through.
- Glasses are not a substitute for a filter on a telescope or binoculars. These devices will need additional filters for safe eclipse viewing.

Another safe viewing option is to look at the eclipse indirectly through a projection of an image of the eclipse onto a flat surface through a device called a pinhole viewer. For more information about eye safety during a total solar eclipse visit: <https://www.nasa.gov/content/eye-safety-during-a-total-solar-eclipse>.

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