



"Your Local
Health Department"

**News Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Solar Eclipse 2017

On Monday August 21, 2017, a solar eclipse will be visible across all of North America. Those living within a roughly 70-mile-wide path from the state of Oregon to South Carolina will get to experience a brief total eclipse when the moon blocks the Sun's face for 2 minutes and 46 seconds. An eclipse is a rare spectacle you won't want to miss in which the moon blocks the Sun's face. Although we won't experience the total eclipse in Michigan, the sun will be approximately 83% obscured by the moon and provide a remarkable opportunity for young and old alike. Nana Amaniampong, Health Promotion & Education Coordinator for the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency, reminds all solar eclipse viewers that "viewing a solar eclipse takes special preparation to protect your eyes and prevent permanent damage".

In order for sky watchers to view the solar eclipse, they must wear special-purpose solar filters known as eclipse glasses. When looking for the appropriate eclipse glasses, you must make sure they meet the following criteria:

- They must meet the international standard ISO 12312-2

- The manufacturer's name and address must be printed on the product
- They should not be older than 3 years, scratched or wrinkled
- Do not use homemade filters

An alternative method for safe view of a solar eclipse is creating a pinhole projector. With this method, the sunlight is streamed through a small hole through a piece of cardboard and projects the sunlight onto a screen. The quickest way to make a pinhole projector is to take a sheet of paper and make a tiny hole in the middle of it using a pin or thumbtack. When using a pinhole projector, make sure to keep your back towards the Sun and do not look directly into the Sun through the pinhole as it can damage your vision. For more information on how to protect your eyes, visit <https://eclipse.aas.org/>.

To learn more about services provided by the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency "Your Local Health Department", visit our website at www.bhsj.org and like our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BHSJWIC/.