



# Commission of Correction

ALLEN RILEY  
Chairman

YOLANDA CANTY  
Commissioner

## CHAIRMAN'S MEMORANDUM

**NO:** 1-2024

**DATE:** March 8, 2024

**TO:** SHERIFFS, COMMISSIONERS OF CORRECTION, JAIL ADMINISTRATORS, and  
WARDENS

**RE:** Total Solar Eclipse

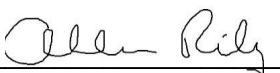
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On April 8, 2024, it is anticipated that a total solar eclipse will occur and impact a 124-mile path across New York State. Additional information regarding this event, and how it may directly impact your location, can be found at [www.iloveny.com/events/eclipse-2024/](http://www.iloveny.com/events/eclipse-2024/).

As the eclipse travels across the state, it may have an impact on local correctional facility operations and scheduling of essential services. This impact is due to unexpected darkness or partial darkness beginning around 2:00pm EST. While total darkness is expected to not exceed 4 minutes, there are longer periods of partial darkness expected to occur immediately prior to and following the total eclipse. Facilities shall work diligently to develop a plan to ensure continued safe and efficient operations during this period of time. This plan may include, but not be limited to the following:

- The unscheduled use of exterior lighting.
- Alternate schedules for transportation outside of the facility. This may include medical appointments, court transports, work details, etc.
- Alternate schedules for the provision of essential services impacted by natural light. (i.e., outdoor exercise)

Facilities are reminded that if essential services are denied, restricted, or limited, they must be done so in accordance with all applicable Minimum Standards and 9 NYCRR §7075.5. Additionally, individual written determinations are not necessary for each incarcerated individual if the determination impacts facility-wide essential services. However, these written determinations shall be displayed to all effected incarcerated individuals and visitors, when applicable. If additional guidance is needed concerning the deprivation of essential services, facilities are encouraged to contact the Liberty unit at [Liberty@scoc.ny.gov](mailto:Liberty@scoc.ny.gov).

  
Allen Riley, Chairman