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## **Are Your Eyes Prepared for the Solar Eclipse on August 21? Experts at the Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry Offer Advice/Information**

Monday, August 21, 2017, marks the first time a total solar eclipse will be visible only in the US. People from all over the world will be traveling to get a glimpse of the historic celestial event, but many may not realize how damaging it can be for their eyes.

### **What is a solar eclipse?**

A solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the sun and the Earth, blocking all or part of the sun. During the brief period of a total eclipse, the moon fully covers the sun only exposing its outer atmosphere, resembling a halo around the moon in front of it. While an eclipse will be visible throughout the US for about two to three hours, only a portion of the country – states stretching from Oregon through South Carolina – will experience a total solar eclipse.

### **How an Eclipse Damages Vision**

Looking directly at an eclipse or at the sun even for a short period of time can cause severe vision damage. Viewing an eclipse without protection can destroy the light-sensitive rods and cones in the eye, and unfortunately can cause retinal burns or even blindness. The only safe way to view an eclipse is using specialized glasses or tools.

### **Protecting your Eyes during a Solar Eclipse**

The only possibly safer way to directly view the sun is through filters specifically designed for this purpose. **The Eye Institute, the clinical optometric facility of Salus University, is providing free solar eclipse glasses to encourage safe viewing.**

Stop by any of our four satellite locations – Oak Lane, East Falls, Chestnut Hill and Norristown – to pick up your complimentary pair today. Limited time offer and while supplies last.

(View our locations) <http://www.salusuhealth.com/Eye-Institute/Contact-Us.aspx>

### **About Salus University**

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Public Health, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in the Philadelphia area that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, and speech-language pathology services. The University has more than 1,200 students, including PhD candidates, and more than 11,300 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit [www.salus.edu](http://www.salus.edu).