Five-Year Calendar of Jewish Holidays

Reminder! Jewish Holidays begin at sundown on the previous day!

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Rosh Hashanah New Year	Sept. 30 & Oct.1 Tues. & Wed.	September 19, 20 Sat. & Sun.	September 9, 10 Thurs. & Fri.	Sept. 29, 30 Thurs. & Fri.	September 17, 18 Mon. & Tues.
Yom Kippur Day of Atonement	October 9 Thursday	September 28 Monday	September 18 Saturday	October 8 Saturday	September 26 Wednesday
Sukkot Feast of Tabernacles	October 14, 15 Tues. & Wed.	October 3, 4 Sat. & Sun.	September 23, 24 Thurs. & Fri.	October 13, 14 Thurs. & Fri.	October 1, 2 Mon. & Tues.
Shemini Atzeret & Simhat Torah	October 21, 22 Tues. & Wed.	October 10, 11 Sat. & Sun.	Sept. 30 & Oct.1 Thurs. & Fri.	October 20, 21 Thurs. & Fri.	October 8, 9 Mon. & Tues.
Hanukkah * Festival of Lights	Dec. 22- Dec. 29 Mon. – Mon.	Dec. 12 – 19 Sat. – Sat.	Dec. 2 – 9 Thurs. – Thurs.	Dec. 21 – 28 Wed. – Wed.	Dec. 9 – 16 Sun. – Sun.
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Purim * Festival of Esther	March 10 Tuesday	February 28 Sunday	March 20 Sunday	March 8 Thursday	February 24 Sunday
Passover	April 9, 10 Thurs. & Fri.	March 30, 31 Tues. & Wed.	April 19, 20 Tues. & Wed.	April 7, 8 Sat. & Sun.	March 26, 27 Tues. & Wed.
Concluding Days of Passover	April 15, 16 Wed. & Thurs.	April 5, 6 Mon. & Tues.	April 25, 26 Mon. & Tues.	April 13, 14 Fri. & Sat.	April 1, 2 Mon. & Tues.
Shavuot Feast of Weeks	May 29, 30 Fri. & Sat.	May 19, 20 Wed. & Thurs.	June 8, 9 Wed. & Thurs.	May 27, 28 Sun. & Mon.	May 15, 16 Wed. & Thurs.

*It is permissible to go to work or attend school on these holidays.

Questions? Do you need more calendars?

Call the Community Relations Council at the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island at 421-4111.

JEWISH HOLIDAY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

2008 - 2013

Jewish Federation of Rhode Island

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EXPLANATION OF JEWISH HOLIDAYS

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CALENDAR…

This calendar and holiday guide has been prepared by the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island to assist public officials, school administrators, teachers and private employers in planning classes and events that will not conflict with the observance of major Jewish holidays.

The First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right of any American to practice their religion. We hope that all Americans will respect the religious practices of their fellow citizens and permit the observance of holy days without penalty or constraint.

Explained in this guide are the biblically mandated Jewish holidays when work or school attendance is traditionally prohibited. Jewish individuals may be absent from school and work on those days. While there are other holidays on the Jewish calendar, these are the holidays when work is expressly forbidden.

✡ Rosh Hashanah - New Year

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Jewish year and the Ten Days of Penitence. The holiday concludes with Yom Kippur. This two-day holiday is observed with day-long synagogue services, the blowing of the shofar (ram's horn) and the eating of apples and honey, symbolic of our hopes for a sweet year.

✡ Yom Kippur - Day of Atonement

The most holy of all Jewish holidays is devoted to synagogue services, fasting, prayer and repentance.

✡ Sukkot - Feast of the Tabernacles, ✡ Shemini Atzeret and ✡ Simhat Torah

This eight-day harvest festival is a holiday of thanksgiving and remembrance of the Israelite wanderings in the desert after the Exodus from Egypt. Although Sukkot lasts for eight days, Jews traditionally refrain from working on the first two days and the last day of the holiday. The concluding day of Sukkot is called Shemini Atzeret. Simhat Torah follows and marks the conclusion of the annual readings of the Torah - The Five Books of Moses. The conclusion of Simhat Torah marks the end of the High Holy Day season.

✡ Passover

This eight-day festival commemorates the Israelite Exodus from Egyptian slavery. Two home services (Seders) occur in Jewish homes on the festival eve and first night. Work is prohibited on the first two and last two days of Passover.

✡ Shavuot - The Feast of Weeks

This holiday commemorates the receiving of the Torah (Five Books of Moses) by the Israelites on Mount Sinai and is observed by two days of synagogue attendance.

✡ Shabbat - The Sabbath

This weekly celebration begins on sundown Friday and concludes one hour after sundown on Saturday. Shabbat celebrates God's completion of Creation and the desire to see peace and harmony in the world. As God rested on the Seventh Day of Creation, Jews are commanded to rest and refrain from work on Shabbat as a way to recreate an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. This weekly holy day is the most revered on the Jewish Calendar.

✡ Other major Jewish Holidays where it is permissible to work or attend school:

✡ Hanukkah

This eight day festival marks the victory of Jewish forces over the ancient Assyrians, and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. The Jewish people fought for religious freedom and were able to throw off the yoke of their Hellenistic oppressors.

✡ Purim

This day of Jewish merrymaking marks the salvation of the Jewish community from near destruction by the Persian tyrant Haman. The story of this victory is recorded in the Book of Esther.