



# JEWISH HOLY DAYS AND FESTIVALS 2021 - 2024



*A guide to planning and scheduling for schools,  
government, agencies, and employers.*

This Jewish Holy Day guide has been prepared by the Jewish Alliance of Greater 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, as well as additional information about lesser known holidays and festivals and related guidelines to assist you with your planning.

**For questions related to Jewish holidays and observances, please reach out to Stephanie Hague, Director of Community Relations, at [shague@jewishallianceri.org](mailto:shague@jewishallianceri.org) or 401.421.4111 ext. 127.**

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*The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island provides community leadership, planning, and fundraising that supports more than 300 programs and services that protect and enhance Jewish life in Rhode Island, in Israel, and around the world.*

*The Alliance also serves as a voice for social justice and strives to create an exciting communal life that engages all people throughout the greater Rhode Island area.*

*To learn more about the Jewish Alliance and our impact in the community, please visit [JewishAllianceRI.org](http://JewishAllianceRI.org).*

**JEWISH  
ALLIANCE**  
of Greater Rhode Island



**HERE FOR GOOD.**

**Please note: All Jewish holidays begin at sundown of the preceding day and end at nightfall on the final day of observance.**

During the Sabbath and Jewish holy days, work and other forms of activity are prohibited. Therefore, Jewish individuals may be absent from school, work, and organization activities. **No person should be penalized for his/her religious observances or beliefs.** We appreciate your attention to these dates. For many Jews, work, school attendance, and other activities are prohibited during holy days but not during minor festivals.

	HOLY DAY NAME	DESCRIPTION	2021 - 2022 (5781)	2022 - 2023 (5782)	2023 - 2024 (5783)
<b>HIGH HOLY DAYS</b> <i>Holiest days of the year</i>	<b>Rosh Hashanah</b> <i>2-days</i>	This two-day observance is the first of the High Holy Days, marking the beginning of the New Year and a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal. Extended synagogue services are held and traditionally work is restricted. <b>Please avoid scheduling back-to-school nights or special events on the evening before, or on these days. Almost all Jewish students and teachers will be absent at least one day.</b>	Tues - Wed Sept 7 - 8	Mon - Tues Sept 26 - 27	Sat - Sun Sept 16 - 17
	<b>Yom Kippur</b> <i>1-day</i>	This most holy day is marked by fasting and prayer. Traditionally, work is restricted. <b>Please avoid scheduling back-to-school nights or special events on the evening before, or on this day. Almost all Jewish students and teachers will be absent.</b>	Thurs Sept 16	Wed Oct 15	Mon Sept 25
<b>HOLY DAYS</b>	<b>Sukkot</b>	Sukkot commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land. <b>This is a seven-day festival with work restrictions on the first two days of the observance. Some Jewish teachers and students may be absent.</b>	Tues - Mon Sept 21 - 27	Mon - Sun Oct 10 - 16	Sat - Fri Sept 30 - Oct 6
	<b>Shemini Atzeret</b>	Shemini Atzeret is the eighth day of the Sukkot Festival. Simchat Torah celebrates the conclusion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah (the first five books of the Hebrew Bible) and the beginning of the new cycle. <b>Traditionally, work is restricted. Some Jewish teachers and students may be absent on both days.</b>	Tues Sept 28	Mon Oct 17	Sat Oct 7
	<b>Simchat Torah</b>		Wed Sept 29	Tues Oct 18	Sun Oct 8
<b>MINOR FESTIVALS</b>	<b>Hanukkah</b>	This is an 8-day festival of religious freedom commemorating the victory of the Maccabees and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. <b>No restrictions on work or school.</b>	<i>1st candle</i> Nov 28 - <i>8th candle</i> Dec 6	<i>1st candle</i> Dec 18 - <i>8th candle</i> Dec 26	<i>1st candle</i> Dec 7 - <i>8th candle</i> Dec 15
	<b>Purim</b>	Purim celebrates the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia, through the help of Queen Esther, from a plot to destroy them. Purim begins the evening before date listed. <b>Please avoid scheduling special events on these evenings.</b>	Thurs March 17	Tues March 7	Sun March 24
<b>HOLY DAYS</b>	<b>Passover</b>	Passover celebrates Israelites deliverance from Egyptian bondage. On the evening before and on the first evening of Passover, Seders, or ritual family dinners, are held in the home. <b>This is an eight-day observance with work restrictions on the first two and last two days. Some Jewish teachers and students may be absent.</b>	Sat - Fri April 16 - 22	Thurs - Wed April 6 - 12	Tues - Mon April 23 - 29
	<b>Shavuot</b>	Shavuot celebrates the receiving of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. Traditionally, work is restricted on both days. <b>Please avoid scheduling final exams or special events on these days. Some Jewish teachers and students may be absent.</b>	Sun - Mon June 5 - 6	Fri - Sat May 26 - 27	Wed - Thurs June 12 - 13
<b>COMMEMORATIVE DAYS</b> <i>No restrictions of work or school</i>	<b>Yom Hashoah</b>	Holocaust Remembrance Day. <b>Community commemoration is typically held on the preceding evening.</b>	Thurs April 28	Tues April 18	Mon May 6
	<b>Yom Hazikaron</b>	Israel's Memorial Day. <b>Community commemoration is typically held on the preceding evening.</b>	Wed May 4	Tues April 25	Mon May 13
	<b>Yom Ha'Atzmaut</b>	Israel's Independence Day. <b>Community commemoration is typically held on the preceding evening.</b>	Thurs May 5	Wed April 26	Tues May 14