

Please Note: All holidays begin at sundown and end at nightfall of 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.

For more information (518) 783.7800		HOLY DAY NAME	DESCRIPTION	2017-2018 (5778)	2018-2019 (5779)	2019-2020 (5780)
HIGH HOLY DAYS Holiest days of the year	Rosh Hashanah 2-day	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. 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.	Night of Wed Sep 20 – Fri Sep 22	Night of Sun Sep 9 – Tues Sep 11	Night of Sun Sep 29 – Tues Oct 1	
	Yom Kippur 1-day	This most holy day is marked by fasting and prayer. Traditionally, work is restricted. 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.	Night of Fri Sep 29 – Sat Sep 30	Night of Tues Sep 18 – Wed Sep 19	Night of Tues Oct 8 – Wed Oct 9	
HOLY DAYS	Sukkot	<i>Sukkot</i> commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land. 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.	Night of Wed Oct 4 – Wed Oct 11	Night of Sun Sep 23 – Sun Sep 30	Night of Sun Oct 13 – Sun Oct 20	
	Shemini Atzeret	<i>Shemini Atzeret</i> is the eighth day of the Sukkot Festival. <i>Simchat Torah</i> 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. Traditionally, work is restricted. Some Jewish teachers and students may be absent on both days.	Night of Wed Oct 11 – Wed Oct 12	Night of Sun Sep 30 – Mon Oct 1	Night of Sun Oct 20 – Mon Oct 21	
	Simchat Torah		Night of Thurs Oct 12 – Fri Oct 13	Night of Mon Oct 1 – Tues Oct 2	Night of Mon Oct 21 – Tues Oct 22	
MINOR FESTIVALS	Hanukkah	This is an 8-day festival of religious freedom commemorating the victory of the Maccabees and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. No restrictions on work or school.	1 st candle - Dec 12 – 8 th candle - Dec 19	1 st candle - Dec 2 – 8 th candle - Dec 9	1 st candle - Dec 22 – 8 th candle - Dec 29	
	Purim	<i>Purim</i> 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. Please avoid scheduling special events on these evenings.	2017 Sun Mar 12	2018 Thurs Mar 1	2019 Thurs Mar 21	2020 Tues Mar 10
HOLY DAYS	Passover	<i>Passover</i> celebrates Israel's 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. 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.	Night of Mon Apr 10 – Tues Apr 18	Night of Fri Mar 30 – Sat Apr 7	Night of Fri Apr 19 – Sat Apr 27	Night of Wed Apr 8 – Thurs Apr 16
	Shavuot	<i>Shavuot</i> celebrates the receiving of the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai. Traditionally, work is restricted on both days. Please avoid scheduling final exams or special events on these days. Some Jewish teachers and students may be absent.	Night of Tues May 30 – Thurs June 1	Night of Sat May 19 – Mon May 21	Night of Sat June 8 – Mon June 10	Night of Thurs May 28 – Sat May 30
COMMEMORATIVE DAYS (No restrictions on work or school)	Yom Hashoah	Holocaust Remembrance Day	Apr 24 Mon	Apr 12 Thurs	May 2 Thurs	Apr 21 Tues
	Yom Hazikaron	Israel's Memorial Day	May 1 Mon	Apr 18 Wed	May 8 Wed	Apr 28 Tues
	Yom Ha'atzmaut	Israel's Independence Day	May 2 Tues	Apr 19 Thurs	May 9 Thurs	Apr 29 Wed

Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York
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A guide to planning and scheduling for schools, government agencies, and employers.



2017-2020 Jewish Holy Days and Festivals

The **Community Relations Council (CRC)** is the human relations agency of Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York. This calendar of Jewish Holy Days is presented in an effort to avoid scheduling conflicts and to increase sensitivity in our pluralistic society. We hope it will provide guidance when scheduling dates for community events, open houses, special programs, teacher conferences, examinations, registration, assemblies, athletic events, and graduation.

There is a wide range of observances and practices within Judaism, just as within other religious communities. Some families observe more of the holy days than other families, and students should not be compared with other Jewish students or teachers who choose to do more or less. For example, Rosh Hashanah may be observed for one or two days. Most Jewish students will observe Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.



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