**Explanation of Holidays**

**ROSH HASHANAH**  
Marks the beginning of the Jewish year and the period considered the High Holy Days.

**YOM KIPPUR**  
Day of Atonement and the holiest day of the Jewish year.

**SUKKOT**  
Eight-day harvest and thanksgiving festival.

**SHEMINI ATZERET**  
Eighth and final day of Sukkot.

**SIMCHAT TORAH**  
Concludes the High Holy Days observance.

**CHANUKAH***  
Eight-day festival of lights.

**PURIM***  
Festive holiday celebrates the rescue of the Jewish community recounted in the Book of Esther.

**PASSOVER**  
Eight-day festival commemorates the Jewish exodus from Egypt.

**SHAVUOT**  
Commemorates the receiving of the Torah by the Israelites on Mt. Sinai.

**SHABBAT**  
The Jewish Sabbath is observed every Saturday. It reflects God’s rest on the seventh day and is considered to be a day dedicated to prayer, reflection, and rest. Observant Jews are unable to participate in secular events occurring between sunset on Friday and sunset on Saturday.

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

To learn more about Jewish holidays, culture or the Jewish community, contact the Jewish Community Relations Council.  
414-390-5781 • JCRC@MilwaukeeJewish.org

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**Vision and Mission**  
The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation envisions a just community that reflects American and Jewish values. Its mission is to speak as the representative of the Jewish community on issues of public affairs and public policy by convening and mobilizing the Jewish community through education, advocacy, social justice, and support for Israel.
**JEWISH HOLIDAYS**

During observance of these major holidays, work is traditionally prohibited. As a result, Jewish individuals may be absent from work and school.

_Jewish holidays begin at sunset on the evening preceding the holiday._

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rosh Hashanah</th>
<th>Yom Kippur</th>
<th>Sukkot</th>
<th>Shemini Atzzeret &amp; Simchat Torah</th>
<th>Chanukah*</th>
<th>Purim*</th>
<th>Passover</th>
<th>Shavuot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>September 25, 26 Thurs. &amp; Fri. (begins at sunset Sept. 24)</td>
<td>October 4 Saturday (begins at sunset Oct. 3)</td>
<td>October 9, 10 Thurs. &amp; Fri. (begins at sunset Oct. 8)</td>
<td>October 16, 17 Thurs. &amp; Fri. (begins at sunset Oct. 15)</td>
<td>December 17-24 Wed.-Wed. (begins at sunset Dec. 16)</td>
<td>March 5 Thursday (begins at sunset March 4)</td>
<td>April 4-11 Sat.-Sat. (begins at sunset April 3)</td>
<td>May 24, 25 Sun. &amp; Mon. (begins at sunset May 23)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>September 14, 15 Mon. &amp; Tues. (begins at sunset Sept. 13)</td>
<td>September 23 Wednesday (begins at sunset Sept. 22)</td>
<td>September 28, 29 Mon. &amp; Tues. (begins at sunset Sept. 27)</td>
<td>October 5, 6 Mon. &amp; Tues. (begins at sunset Oct. 4)</td>
<td>December 7-14 Mon.-Mon. (begins at sunset Dec. 6)</td>
<td>March 24 Friday (begins at sunset March 23)</td>
<td>April 23-30 Sat.-Sat. (begins at sunset April 22)</td>
<td>June 12, 13 Sun. &amp; Mon. (begins at sunset June 11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>September 21, 22 Mon. &amp; Tues. (begins at sunset Sept. 20)</td>
<td>September 30 Saturday (begins at sunset Sept. 29)</td>
<td>October 5, 6 Thurs. &amp; Fri. (begins at sunset Oct. 4)</td>
<td>October 12, 13 Mon. &amp; Tues. (begins at sunset Oct. 11)</td>
<td>December 13-20 Wed.-Wed. (begins at sunset Dec. 12)</td>
<td>March 1 Thursday (begins at sunset Feb. 28)</td>
<td>March 31-April 7 Sat.-Sat. (begins at sunset March 30)</td>
<td>May 20, 21 Sun. &amp; Mon. (begins at sunset May 19)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>September 10, 11 Mon. &amp; Tues. (begins at sunset Sept. 9)</td>
<td>September 19 Wednesday (begins at sunset Sept. 18)</td>
<td>October 24, 25 Mon. &amp; Tues. (begins at sunset Oct. 23)</td>
<td>October 1, 2 Thurs. &amp; Fri. (begins at sunset Sept. 30)</td>
<td>December 3-10 Mon.-Mon. (begins at sunset Dec. 2)</td>
<td>March 21 Thursday (begins at sunset March 20)</td>
<td>April 20-27 Sat.-Sat. (begins at sunset April 19)</td>
<td>June 9, 10 Sun.-Mon. (begins at sunset June 8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*It is permissible to go to work and attend school on these holidays. This calendar is also available online at MilwaukeeJewish.org/JCRC.*