



# Happy Passover!

# Passover

Jewish

Passover commemorates the Jews' exodus from ancient Egypt and their freedom from slavery. These holy days last seven days (and for some outside the land of Israel an additional eighth day). Practitioners traditionally engage in a spring cleaning before Passover begins, ridding the home of all leavened grains. Since Jews fled quickly, without giving their bread time to rise, no leavened foods or grains are eaten for the duration of Passover. Matzo, an unleavened bread with the consistency of a cracker, is the center of a ritual meal called a Seder. Seders are choreographed feasts with ritual foods, often held on the first and second evenings of these holy days. A book called a Haggadah, of which there are many versions, is read aloud before, during, and after the meal. Passover celebrates God's intervention as a liberator and acknowledges current injustices in the world yet to be corrected.



This collection of information sheets on major holidays and cultural events is a joint partnership of the School of Information staff, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and the Office of the Provost. Facts have been vetted by U-M's Association of Religious Counselors (ARC), and other campus groups. Public feedback is welcome; please email [DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu](mailto:DEIHolidayFacts@umich.edu).

## Date

- Passover begins on the 15th of the Jewish month Nisan; it is set by the lunar-based Hebrew calendar.
- Jewish holy days begin and end at sundown.
- Dates may vary depending on observance.
- Check the [Calendar Index](#) for Religious Holidays during the current academic year for the exact date.

## Greetings

Happy Passover! Depending on tradition, Jewish people might say, "Happy Passover!" or "Chag Sameach! (Happy Holiday!)" to one another.

## Common Practices and Celebrations

- Family and friends gather for Seders.
- At Seders people often discuss past and current injustices in their country of residence and elsewhere in the world.

## Common Dietary Restrictions

- No leavened or fermented food are eaten. Additionally, some observers of Judaism follow kosher rules of eating.
- Meat and dairy are not eaten together.
- Pork and seafood are not eaten.

## Impact to U-M Community

- Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities during the first two and last two days of these Holy Days.
- Expect that observers will not attend meetings or communicate during the first two and last two days of these Holy Days.
- Link to [U-M Guidance Regarding Conflicts.](#)

## U-M Campus Resources

- [Maize Pages Jewish](#), U-M
- [Association of Religious Counselors](#), U-M

## Information Sources

- [Passover 101](#)
- [Kosher Eating](#)

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