

## MEANING

- *Pesach* in Hebrew, meaning “skip” or “pass over.”
- Festival of freedom commemorating the biblical story of the exodus, the escape of the Jewish people from slavery in ancient Egypt.

## GREETINGS

- Chag Sameach (“A good holiday!” – Hebrew).
- Gut Yontif (“A good holiday!” – Yiddish).
- During the middle days of the holiday (called “chol HaMoed”) a customary greeting is “Moadim l’simcha” (may your times be happy), to which a customary response is “chagim u’zmanim l’sason” (“joyous holidays and seasons!” – Hebrew).

## WHEN

- Hebrew Calendar: 15-22 Nisan.
- Western Calendar: March or April.
- Pesach begins at sundown and ends at sundown one week later. Some Jews observe Passover for 7 days, and others for 8 days, depending on denomination and custom.

## COMMON PRACTICES

- Pesach begins with a festive “seder” – a meal that tells the story of the Exodus using symbolic foods, readings and songs from a ritual text called a “Haggadah.”
- For the whole week of Pesach it is customary to abstain from “hametz” (leavened food).
- Jews are instructed to clean their homes of any “hametz” (bread and leavened items).

## QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Email: [inclusion@msu.edu](mailto:inclusion@msu.edu)

Type of Calendar:

Hebrew (lunisolar)



# Passover

English

Pa·sow·vr



- Some Jewish students, staff, and faculty will observe the first two days and the last two days of Pesach as a time when work is prohibited by Jewish law, meaning that they will not be able to use electricity, answer phone calls or text messages, respond to emails, drive, take tests or exams, write or attend work or work-related events.
- Students, staff and faculty may need to travel at this time to spend the holiday with friends and family. Some may need to work remotely during the week of Passover if their usual residence in East Lansing does not allow them access to a kitchen that is designated as Kosher for Pesach.
- Instructors and supervisors should avoid scheduling required tests, exams or other activities on the first two days of Pesach.
- Students, staff, and faculty should be given the opportunity to reschedule any tests, exams or study or work activities that must be scheduled during the week of Pesach.

FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

[provost.msu.edu](http://provost.msu.edu)

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