

## Navigating the Passover Holiday

Passover, one of the most widely celebrated holidays in the Jewish calendar commemorates the exodus from Egypt, the journey toward redemption, and our personal paths as we move toward freedom.

Celebrated with the Passover Seder, an organized meal, we tell the story of the exodus, the trials and tribulations of the people, the rabbinic interpretations of the text, and seek to find ourselves amidst the story.

In 2026, the first night of Passover begins Wednesday evening, April 1st, and concludes on Thursday night, April 9th. While the holiday itself lasts 8 days, below we have broken down the elements of the holiday into the three distinct portions that will impact students the most.

There is a famous Yiddish proverb that goes, “for every two Jews there are three opinions.” Judaism is not a monolith and while the practices listed here are often regarded as normative or typical, they are by no means comprehensive. If something is confusing or different than expectations, **do not hesitate to reach out.**

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**First two days of Passover** (begins sundown Wednesday, April 1; ends sunset, Friday, April 3)

At Rutgers, many students go home to celebrate with their families and may miss class.

- Many students will observe a cessation from work, technology, and focus on spirituality and prayer during this holiday
- Some students who don't travel on the holiday might not be able to attend an in-person class on these days. Some students will travel on Wednesday morning in order to get home for the holiday, and will stay through Shabbat, a holiday we have every week, which immediately follows the opening days of the holiday and concludes at sunset on Saturday night April 4. Students who miss class on this Wednesday through Friday will need special accommodation.

**Intermediate days of Passover** (begins sundown Saturday, April 4; ends sunset, Tuesday, April 7)

In Hebrew known as “Chol Ha-Moed” this is a semi-holiday time, when Jews continue to eat kosher for Passover food.

- There are different opinions on how to observe this time period. Some students will remain home for the entire week. Others will go to class. Some won't do schoolwork at all during this time. Some students will need accommodation for missed class and/or schoolwork.

**Last two days of Passover** (begins sundown Tuesday, April 7; ends sunset, Thursday, April 9)

Like the first two days, this is a time when students might choose to go home and might miss class.

- Many students will observe a cessation from work, technology, and focus on spirituality and prayer during this holiday
- Some students who don't travel on the holiday might not be able to attend an in-person class on these days.
- Some students may find it challenging to return to campus in time for classes on Friday April 10.