

Cultural Awareness Guide

Religious and Spiritual Accommodations



2019-2021

Cultural Awareness Guide for Religious and Spiritual Beliefs of OHSU Employees, Students and Patients

Background

“Be a great organization, diverse in people and ideas” is the first goal of OHSU’s Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. Sustaining an environment that is respectful of others is vitally important to OHSU's evolution as a world-class academic health center. Embracing diversity is a key element in the current strategic planning process; we must integrate diversity into all areas of the university and all aspects of OHSU’s mission.

An important component of OHSU’s journey toward that goal is to increase cultural awareness and understanding across OHSU, as well as providing an inclusive, respectful and accessible environment for people from all walks of life, lived experiences, cultural backgrounds, faith, religious affiliation, philosophical beliefs or non-beliefs.

Cultural Awareness Guide

This Cultural Awareness Guide has been created to enhance awareness pertaining to faith-based practices and events. The guide also serves as an educational resource for the myriad of religions and beliefs. While we make every effort to include all major religious holidays, we realize we may have missed one that is important to you.

This guide offers crucial information about dates and practices that will be helpful to those planning activities, events, meetings, and co-curricular events that impact OHSU students, employees, and patients.

OHSU Religious Policy & Accommodations

As an institution, OHSU does not sponsor, endorse or suppress religion or favor or disfavor any particular religion. The University recognizes the commitment of members of the OHSU community to pursue a spiritual or religious practice or non-beliefs and actively supports the right to do so in a climate of inclusion and respect.

OHSU Policy No. 03-05-037

Religious Exercise and Religious Expression in the workplace and educational environment

OHSU does not discriminate on the basis of religion, require religious participation or non-participation as a condition of employment or study, or permit religious harassment. OHSU administration, faculty, staff, volunteers and students must treat everyone with the same respect and consideration, regardless of their religious beliefs or non-beliefs. Additionally, OHSU does not restrict or control the free exercise of beliefs, thought or ideas.

The responsible office for religious accommodation requests is the Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity (AAEO) department. The requestor must complete the [Religious Reasonable Accommodations Form](#) and send it directly to AAEO. Questions about reasonable accommodations for religious days may be emailed to the AAEO at aaeo@ohsu.edu or for more information by phone: 503-494-5148.

OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution and as such, OHSU policy provides protections for all individuals without regard to religion and other legally protected categories. Harassment on the basis of religion is prohibited at OHSU. See OHSU Policy No. 03-05-032.

Student and Employee Diversity Resource Guide

[This guide](#) – updated annually – provides connections to local churches, congregations and other places of worship and/or spiritual practice. Email cdi@ohsu.edu to suggest resources for inclusion in the guide.

Spiritual Services at OHSU

OHSU chaplains are available to help patients and OHSU community members to cope with difficult transitions, fears, death and grieving, and other sources of stress. They can also assist patient in locating clergy of their faith. If a patient would like a visit from a chaplain, you can contact Spiritual Services team at (503) 418-5398.

Meditation Spaces at OHSU

Spaces are available for prayer, meditation, and quiet reflection for patients, employees and students. Space is open to all and no reservation or appointment is required.

- Meditation Room at Collaborative Life Sciences Building, 4th floor, inside the Learning Resource Center
- Meditation Room at Doernbecher Children's Hospital 10th floor, Room 10301
- Interfaith Sanctuary OHSU Hospital, 9th floor, Room 9C05

CultureVision is an online tool provides a comprehensive web-based database that contains healthcare related information to diverse groups. This tool also addresses different faiths. You can access CultureVision through EPIC and O2.. If you use it outside OHSU, the login is ohsu and the password is science. The website is: <http://www.crculturevision.com>.

CultureVision is meant to be used to explore the impact of culture and belief systems on health and health care. Professionals are advised not to make assumptions about groups and cultures based on Culture Vision and other resources which may lead to , to stereotyping. Each individual patient must be treated individually.

Other online resources:

Beliefnet.com

Patheos.com

Improvement & Additional Resources

This guide has been created by the Center for Diversity & Inclusion, with review from Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity, Human Resources, Patient Relations and The Diversity Advisory Council. If you have any recommendations for improving the guide, please email your recommendations to the Center for Diversity & Inclusion cdi@ohsu.edu.

JANUARY

Gantan-sai (Shinto) *Holiday with significant work restriction
January 1, 2019. January 1, 2020. January 1, 2021

Gantan-sai is the annual New Year festival of the Shinto religion.

General Practices: Practitioners pray for inner renewal, prosperity, and health, as well as visiting shrines and visiting friends and family.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on this date (work holiday)

Epiphany / Twelfth Night / Three Kings Day (Christian / Roman Catholic and Protestant)
January 6, 2019. January 6, 2020. January 6, 2021.

This date is also known as Befana Day; commemorates the revelation of God through Jesus Christ and marks the time the three wise men arrived in Bethlehem and presented gifts to the baby Jesus.

General Practices: Prayer, festive meals, offerings, gifts

Christmas (Eastern Orthodox Christian) *Holiday with significant work restriction
January 7, 2019. January 7, 2020. January 7, 2021.

Christmas is an annual celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah whose message and self-sacrifice began the Christian religion.

General Practices: Many celebrate this holiday by attending church services, holding celebratory meals, and visiting family.

Date details: Eastern Orthodox Christmas is determined by the Julian calendar which regulates ceremonial cycle of the Eastern Orthodox Christian churches.

Recommended Accommodations: Because this holiday typically falls during winter break, academic accommodations may not be required. However many Eastern Orthodox employees will probably request this day off.

FEBRUARY

Imbolc / Candlemas (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)

February 1-2, 2019. February 1-2, 2020. February 1-2, 2021.

Also referred to as the Feast of Pan, Feast of Torches, Feast of Waxing Lights, and Oimele. Celebrates the coming of spring and recovery of the Earth Goddess after giving birth to the Sun God at Yule. For many traditions, a time for initiations, re-dedication and pledges for the coming year. One of the four "greater Sabbats."

General Practices: Activities might include making candles, reading poetry and telling stories.

Setsubum-sai (Shinto)

February 3, 2019. February 3, 2020. February 3, 2021.

Setsubum-sai marks the beginning of spring, and is known as the "bean-throwing festival. The faithful scatter roasted beans to bring good luck to the new season.

Lunar New Year (Confucian, Taoist, Buddhist) *Holiday with significant work restriction

February 5, 2019. January 25, 2020. February 12, 2021.

This is the most important of traditional Chinese holidays.

General Practices: Families gather together to spend the evening preparing boiled dumplings and festive meals and giving of money to children in red envelopes.

Date details: Corresponds to the New Moon in Aquarius, which can fall from late January to mid-February

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date. Many Chinese employees will probably request this day off.

Ash Wednesday (Christian / Roman Catholic and Protestant)

March 6, 2019. February 26, 2020. February 17, 2021.

This is the first day of Lent, the period of forty days before Easter in which many Christians sacrifice ordinary pleasures to reflect on Christ's sacrifice.

General Practices: On this day, there are special church services, and the faithful wear a cross of ashes marked on foreheads. Most Christians abstain from meat on this day.

Recommended Accommodations: Provide food accommodation as requested—prohibitions include animal products.

MARCH

Magha Puja Day (Buddhist)

March 21, 2019. February 9, 2020. March 28, 2021

Magha Puja Day commemorates an important event in the life of the Buddha, in which the four disciples traveled to join the Buddha.

Ostara / Alban Eilir / Spring Equinox (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)

March 20, 2019. March 20, 2020. March 20, 2021.

Also known as Eostre. Regarded as a time of fertility and conception. In some Wiccan traditions, it is marked as the time when the Goddess conceives the God's child, which will be born at the winter solstice. One of eight major annual sabbats or festivals.

General Practices: Lighting fires to commemorate the return of light in the spring and to honor the God and Goddess. Coloring eggs as a way of honoring fertility is also practiced.

Naw Ruz (Baha'i)

March 20-21, 2019. March 19-20, 2020. March 19-20, 2021.

This is the Baha'i New Year, a traditional celebration in Iran adopted as a holy day associated with Baha'i. It is a celebration of spring and new life.

General Practices: Festive music dancing, prayers, meetings, meals

Palm Sunday (Christian / Roman Catholic and Protestant)

April 14, 2019. April 5, 2020. March 28, 2021.

A commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as crowds lined his path with palm fronds

General Practices: Prayer, distribution of palm leaves commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem prior to his crucifixion.

Holi (Hindu)

March 21, 2019. March 9, 2020. March 28, 2021.

Also known as the "Festival of Colors," this holiday can be traced to Hindu scriptures commemorating good over evil. This date is also a celebration of the colorful spring and a farewell to the dull winter.

General Practices: Hindus often sprinkle colored water and powder on others and celebrate with bonfires and lights, signifying victory of good over evil.

Date details: Celebrated at the end of the winter season on the last full moon day of the lunar moon in late February or early March.

APRIL

Easter (Christian / Roman Catholic and Protestant) *Holiday with significant work restriction
April 21, 2019. April 12, 2020. April 4, 2021.

Annual commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ

General Practices: Celebratory meals, family gatherings, distribution of colored eggs, baskets and chocolate bunnies. It is a celebration of renewal.

Date details: Easter Sunday is determined by the Gregorian calendar (Gregorian calendar regulates ceremonial cycle of the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches).

Good- Friday (Christian / Roman Catholic and Protestant)
April 19, 2019. April 10, 2020. April 2, 2021.

Friday before Easter, commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ; among some sects of Christianity and in many countries marks a day of fasting.

General Practices: Prayer, fasting, and noon or afternoon services in some Christian denominations.

Date details: Always falls on the Friday before Easter Sunday.

Recommended Accommodations: Provide food accommodation as requested—meat (fish is not considered meat) is prohibited during meals for some.

Maundy Thursday (Christian / Roman Catholic and Protestant)
April 18, 2019. April 9, 2020. April 1, 2021.

Thursday before Easter, commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with the Apostles.

General Practices: Prayer, Communion (Eucharist), meals, and foot-washing ceremonies among some Christian denominations

Date details: Always falls on the Thursday before Easter Sunday.

Vaisakhi (Sikh)
April 14, 2019. April 13, 2020. April 13, 2021.

Vaisakhi is the Sikh new year festival and commemorates 1699, the year Sikhism was born. Vaisakhi is also a long-established harvest festival.

General Practices: There are often parades, dancing, and singing throughout the day. These celebrations involve music, singing, and chanting of scriptures and hymns.

Pesach / Passover (Jewish) *Holiday with significant work restriction
April 19-27, 2019. April 8-16, 2020. March 27-April 4, 2021.

Pesach is a week-long observance commemorating the freedom and exodus of the Israelites (Jewish slaves) from Egypt during the reign of the Pharaoh Ramses II (one of three pilgrimage festivals).

General Practices: Family gatherings, ritualized meals called Seders, reading of the Haggadah, lighting of Yahrzeit memorial candle at sundown on the last night of Passover.

Date details: Begins at sundown of first day.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on the first two and last two days of the holiday, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply—the use of leavening is prohibited so, for example, matzah is eaten in place of bread.)

Holy Friday / Good Friday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

April 26, 2019. April 17, 2020. April 30, 2021.

Friday before Easter, commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus Christ; among some sects of Christianity and in many countries marks a day of fasting.

General Practices: Prayer, fasting, confession, and church services as well as the wrapping or dyeing of eggs (often red) in preparation for Easter Sunday.

Date details: Orthodox Good Friday is determined by the Julian calendar which regulates ceremonial cycle of the Eastern Orthodox Christian churches.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on the date.

Pascha / Easter (Eastern Orthodox Christian) *Holiday with significant workrestriction

April 28, 2019. April 19, 2020. May 2, 2021

Annual commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ

General Practices: Celebratory meals, family gatherings, distribution of colored eggs and baskets of breads, meats, eggs, cheeses and other foods. It is a celebration of renewal.

Date details: Easter Sunday is determined by the Julian calendar which regulates ceremonial cycle of the Eastern Orthodox Christian churches.

SE Asia New Year (Thai, Lao, Burmese, Khmer, and Cambodian)

April 13-16, 2019. April 13-16, 2020. April 13-16, 2021.

General Practices: The celebration is often characterized by the gathering of family, water fights, and games. This is also a spiritual celebration with a wide variety of unique rituals.

Date details: Celebrated around the 13-14 of April and can last a few days.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on the date.

Yom HaSho'ah (Jewish)

May 1-2, 2019. April 20-21, 2020. April 7-8, 2021.

Holocaust Remembrance Day; a day to remember the lives and names of Jewish victims and activists of the Holocaust.

General Practices: Ceremonies or events to remember Holocaust victims who died during World War II; activities may include lighting memorial candles and reciting the Kaddish, which is a prayer for the departed.

Date details: Begins at sundown on the first day.

Recommended Accommodations: This is not a work holiday—academics and work are permitted. Provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).

MAY

Beltane (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)

May 1, 2019. May 1, 2020. May 1, 2021.

The fire festival that celebrates the coming of summer and the fertility of the coming year. One of the eight major annual sabbats or festivals.

General Practices: Jumping the bonfire, dancing the MayPole.

JUNE

Ramadan (Islamic)

May 5- June 4, 2019. April 23-May 23, 2020. April 12- May 11, 2021.

Ramadan is an occasion to focus on faith through fasting and prayer, and is one of the most important Muslim holidays. Ramadan is notable because the Qur'an was first revealed during this month, and Muslims see the Qur'an as the ultimate form of guidance for mankind.

General Practices: Fasting is required during the entire month of Ramadan. Muslims refrain from food and beverages during the daylight hours, and smoking and sexual relations are forbidden. Worshipers break the fasting each night with prayer, reading of the Qur'an, and a meal called the iftar. In addition, many Muslims also attend night prayers at Mosques. Muslims also believe that their good actions bring a greater reward during this month than any other time of the year, so almost all Muslims try to give up bad habits during Ramadan.

Recommended Accommodations: If possible, avoid scheduling major academic deadlines during this time. Be sensitive to the fact that students and employees celebrating Ramadan will be fasting during the day (continuously for 30 days) and will likely have less stamina as a result. If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (Islamic dietary restrictions apply).

Shavuot (Jewish) *Holiday with significant work restriction
June 9-10 2019. May 29-30, 2020. May 17-18, 2021.

Commemorates receipt of the Torah on Mount Sinai (two of three pilgrimage festivals)

General Practices: Evening of devotional programs and studying the Torah, lighting of Yahrzeit memorial candle at sundown on the second night of Shavuot.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events and activities on the first two and last two days of the holiday. Provide food accommodation as requested. (Kosher restrictions apply—although it is customary to eat dairy).

Litha / Midsomer / Alban Hefin / Summer Solstice (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)
June 21-22, 2019. June 21-22, 2020. June 21-22, 2021.

A celebration of the longest day of the year and the beginning of summer. Celebration of the Goddess manifesting as Mother Earth and the God as the Sun King. For some Pagans the Summer Solstice marks the marriage of the God and Goddess and see their union as the force that creates the harvest's fruits. One of the eight major annual sabbats or festivals.

General Practices: Lighting to bonfires and watching the sun rise.

Eid al-Fitr (Islamic) *Holiday with significant work restriction
June 3-4, 2019. May 23-24, 2020. May 12-13, 2021.

Eid al-Fitr means "break the fast", and is the last day of Ramadan, marking the end of a month of fasting.

General Practices: Muslims often pray, exchange gifts, give money to children, feast, and celebrate with friends and family.

Date Details: Dates are determined by the lunar calendar. Eid al Fitr is a three day celebration and begins at sundown on the first day.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. Employees will likely ask to take a vacation day on this day, and that request should be granted if at all possible. If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (Islamic dietary restrictions apply).

JULY

Tisha B'Av (Jewish)

August 10-11, 2019. July 29-30, 2020. July 17-18, 2021.

Commemorates a series of Jewish tragedies including the destruction of the first and second temples in Jerusalem.

General practices: Fasting and mourning.

Date details: Begins at sundown on first day, fast deferred because of the Sabbath.

Recommended accommodations: Plan limited activities after a fast.

AUGUST

Eid al-Adha (Islamic) *Holiday with significant work restriction

August 11-12, 2019. July 30-July 31, 2020. July 19-20, 2021.

Eid al-Adha is a major festival that celebrates the willingness to make sacrifices in the name of one's faith. According to legend, the prophet Ibrahim was ordered to sacrifice his son in God's name. When Ibrahim was prepared to kill his son, God stepped in and gave him a sheep to sacrifice instead. This holiday celebrates Ibrahim's total faith in God, and Muslims view this holiday as an important annual reminder.

General Practices: Prayers, gift giving, prayers, and sometimes slaughtering of sheep, with a portion of the meat gifted to the poor.

Date details: Begins at sundown on first day.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on the first day. If planning an evening event, provide food accommodations if requested (Islamic dietary restrictions apply).

SEPTEMBER

Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)

August 24, 2019. August 11, 2020. August 30, 2021.

This two-day festival celebrates the birth of Krishna, a widely-worshiped Hindu god. Krishna is considered to be a warrior, hero, teacher, and philosopher.

General Practices: During this festival, Hindus are likely to forgo sleep in order to sing bhajans, traditional Hindu songs. Many Hindus also fast during the first day of the festival. Dances, songs, and plays depicting the life of Krishna are common.

Date Details: The first day is called Krishan ashtami or Gokul ashtami. The second day is known as Kaal ashtami or more popularly Janam ashtami.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling major academic deadlines on this day, since it is likely that students will be operating on very little sleep.

Rosh Hashanah (Jewish) *Holiday with significant work restriction

September 29- October 1, 2019. September 18-20, 2020. September 6-8, 2021.

Start of the Jewish New Year, day of judgment and remembrance; the Jewish calendar celebrates the New Year in the seventh month (Tishrei) as a day of rest and celebration ten days before Yom Kippur

General Practices: Prayer in synagogue and festive meals

Date details: Begins at sundown on first day.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. If planning an event, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).

Yom Kippur (Jewish) *Holiday with significant work restriction

October 8-9, 2019. September 27-28, 2020. September 15-16, 2021.

Yom Kippur is often considered the holiest day of the year for Jews, and the day is dedicated to atonement and abstinence.

General Practices: During Yom Kippur, Jews fast from before sundown until after sunset, and light a Yahrzeit memorial candle at sundown on the night of Yom Kippur.

Date details: Begins at sundown on first day.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date and after a day of fasting.

Mabon / Alban Elfed / Autumnal Equinox (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)
September 23, 2019. September 22, 2020. September 23, 2021.

Also referred to as Harvest Home, the Feast of the Ingathering, and Meán Fómhair. Mabon is the second celebration of the harvest, a ritual of thanksgiving for the fruits of the earth, and a recognition of the need to share them to secure the blessings of the Goddess and the God during the coming winter months. One of the eight major annual sabbats or festivals.

General Practices: At Mabon, day and night are in equal balance. It is a time to offer gratitude for the blessings of the harvest and also to begin to prepare for turning inward. Making dishes with apples, squash and pumpkins as part of ritual celebration is customary.

Sukkot (Jewish) *Holiday with significant work restriction
October 13-20, 2019. October 2-9, 2020. September 20-27, 2021.

A week-long celebration which begins with the building of Sukkah for sleep and meals; Sukkot is named for the huts Moses and the Israelites lived in as they wandered the desert before reaching the promised land.

General Practices: Families in the United States commonly decorate the sukkah with produce and artwork.

Date details: Begins at sundown of prior day; work holiday varies by denomination.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on the first two days. If planning an event, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).

OCTOBER

Shemini Atzeret (Jewish) *Holiday with significant work restriction
October 20-21, 2019. October 9-10, 2020. September 27-28, 2021.

Also known as Atzereth, this is a fall festival, which includes a memorial service for the dead and features prayers for rain in Israel.

General Practices: Jews light a Yahrzeit memorial candle at sundown on Shemini Atzereth (the 8th night of Sukkot).

Date details: Begins at sundown the first day.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. If planning an event, provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply).

Simchat Torah (Jewish) *Holiday with significant work restriction
October 21-22, 2019. October 10-11, 2020. September 28-29, 2021.

Simchat Torah marks the completion of the annual cycle of the reading of the Torah in the synagogue and the beginning of the new cycle.

General Practices: Practitioners dance in synagogues as all the Torah scrolls are carried around in seven circuits.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date. Kosher restrictions apply.

Navratri (Hindu)
September 29- October 7, 2019. October 17-25, 2020. October 6-14, 2021.

Navarati is one of the greatest Hindu festivals, and celebrates the triumph of good over evil. During this time, Hindus worship Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati.

General Practices: Durga is the mother goddess, and so Hindus try to visit their mothers and other relatives during this time. Some Hindus will pray and fast, and there are often feasts and dances.

Samhain (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)
October 31 – November 1, 2019. October 31 – November 1, 2020. October 31 – November 1, 2021.

One of the four "greater Sabbats" and considered by some to be the Wiccan New Year. A time to celebrate the lives of those who have passed on, welcome those born during the past year into the community, and reflecting on past relationships, events and other significant changes in life.

General Practices: Paying respect to ancestors, family members, elders of the faith, friends, pets and other loved ones who have died.

NOVEMBER

Diwali (Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, Jain) *Holiday with significant work restriction

October 27, 2019. November 14, 2020. November 4, 2021.

Diwali—the Hindu “festival of lights”—is an extremely popular holiday for multiple religions throughout Southern Asia. Diwali extends over five days, and celebrates the victory of good over evil. The Times of India described Diwali as “a reaffirmation of hope, a renewed commitment to friendship and goodwill, and a religiously sanctioned celebration of the simple.” Fireworks, oil lamps, and sweets are common, making this a favorite holiday for children. The lamps are lit to help the goddess Lakshmi find her way into people’s homes.

General Practices: Lighting oil lamps and candles, setting off fireworks, and prayer.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, and activities on this date. Hindu employees will likely request a vacation day on this date.

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh (Baha'i) *Holiday with significant work restriction

October 29- 30, 2019. October 18-19, 2020. November 6-7, 2021.

This holiday celebrates the birthday of Bahá'u'lláh, one of the Baha’I faith’s most important figures. For Bahá’ís, the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh is a Holy Day celebrating the rebirth of the world through the love of God, just as Christmas is for Christians.

Recommended Accommodations: Avoid scheduling important academic deadlines, events, or activities on this date. (Baha’i employees will likely request to have this day off.)

Día de los Muertos (Mexico)

November 1-2, 2019. November 1-2, 2020. November 1-2, 2021.

The Day of the Dead is a Mexican holiday that is celebrated throughout Mexico, in particular the Central and South regions, and by people of Mexican heritage elsewhere.

General Practices: prayer and remembrance of passed friends and family, creation of altars, traditional dishes.

Recommended Accommodations: Mexican employees may request time off.

Hmong New Years (Hmong)

Celebrations frequently occur in November and December

This is an important communal and social event that occurs after the harvest season and often at the end of the twelfth lunar calendar month.

General Practices: The celebration consists of giving thanks to ancestors, a ball-throwing game called *pov pob*, singing, traditional music and foods, and elaborate outfits.

Recommended Accommodations: Hmong employees may be requesting time off.

DECEMBER

Hanukkah / Chanukah (Jewish)

December 22-30, 2019. December 10-18, 2020. November 28-December 6, 2021.

Hanukkah is the Jewish festival of lights, and lasts for eight days. Hanukkah commemorates the Jewish struggle for religious freedom. The history of the holiday involves a historic military victory in which a Jewish sect called the Maccabees defeated the Syrian Greeks. The celebration commemorates a miracle in which a sacred temple flame burned for eight days on only one day's worth of oil.

General Practices: On each of the eight nights of Hanukkah, Jewish families light an additional candle of the menorah candelabrum until all eight candles are lit. Jews celebrate with food and song, as well as exchanging gifts for eight days.

Date details: Hanukkah begins at sundown on the first day.

Recommended Accommodations: Academics and work permitted, not a work holiday. Provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply—potato pancakes, doughnuts or other fried food is customary).

Yule / Midwinter / Alban Arthan / Winter Solstice (Pagan, Wiccan, Druid)

December 21 – January 1, 2019. December 21 – January 1, 2020. December 21– January 1, 2021.

The longest night of the year followed by the sun's "rebirth" and lengthening of days. In most traditions, Yule is celebrated as the rebirth of the Great God, who is viewed as the newborn solstice sun. Some pagans consider Yule to be the beginning of the new year. One of the eight major annual sabbats or festivals.

General Practices: Burning the yule log (which was traditionally part of last year's yule tree) is an act of faith and renewal that, indeed, the light, and the warmth will return.

Christmas (Christian / Roman Catholic and Protestant) *Holiday with significant work restriction

December 24-25, 2019. December 24-25, 2020. December 14-25, 2021.

Christmas is an annual celebration commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah whose message and self-sacrifice began the Christian religion.

General Practices: Many celebrate this holiday by giving gifts, attending church services, and gathering with family.

Date details: Begins at sundown on Dec. 24 annually and continues with all day celebration on Dec. 25.

Recommended Accommodations: This is a national holiday in the United States, so special accommodations are likely not required.

APPENDIX

How to add the Religious and Spiritual Accommodations
(RSOC) calendar overlay to Outlook

STEP 1: Go to the Religious and Spiritual Observances Calendar (RSOC) on Bridge:

<https://bridge.ohsu.edu/cs/cdi/Lists/rsoc/calendar.aspx>

STEP 2: Click on the “calendar” menu item found on top of the calendar under the Bridge logo:

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Bridge website. The "CALENDAR" link is highlighted with a red box. Below the navigation bar, there's a sidebar on the left with a "CDI" logo and a grid of month links (Jan-Dec). The main content area displays the title "Religious & Spiritual Observances" and a calendar for September 2015. The calendar shows specific observances like Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu) and Rosh Hashanah (Jewish).

STEP 3: Next, click on the “Connect to Outlook” icon at the top row:

BRIDGE Search this site

BROWSE EVENTS CALENDAR

Day Week Month Expand All Collapse All Calendars Overlay Create View Modify View Create Column Current View: Calendar Tags & Notes E-mail a Link Alert Me RSS Feed Connect to Outlook Export to Excel Open with Acce

Scope Expand Manage Views Tags and Notes Share & Track Connect & Export

2015
Jan Feb Mar
Apr May Jun
Jul Aug Sep
Oct Nov Dec
Today is Wednesday, September 16, 2015

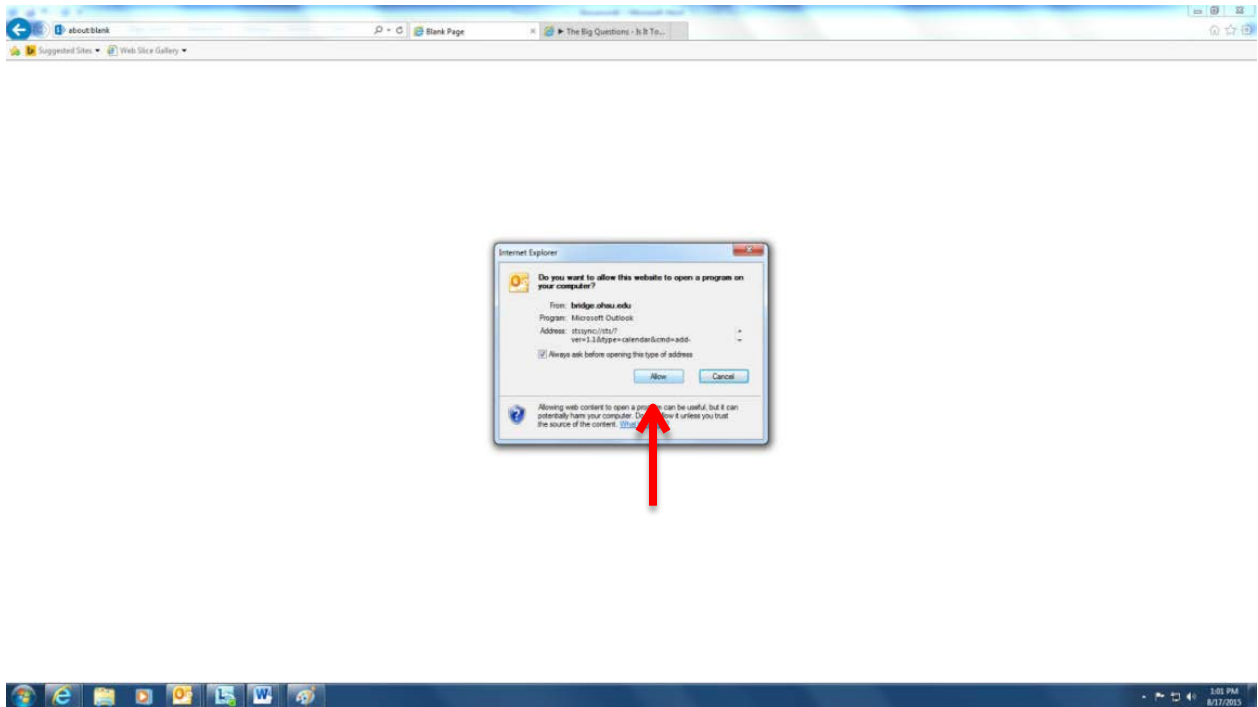
Calendars in View
Religious & Spiritual Observances

Notebook
Libraries
Shared Documents
Restricted Documents

September, 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
30	31	1
6 Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)	7	8
13 Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)	14	15
20 Mabon / Alban Elfed / Autumnal Equinox (Pagan)	21	22

STEP 4: Click “allow” for the RSOC to appear on Outlook:

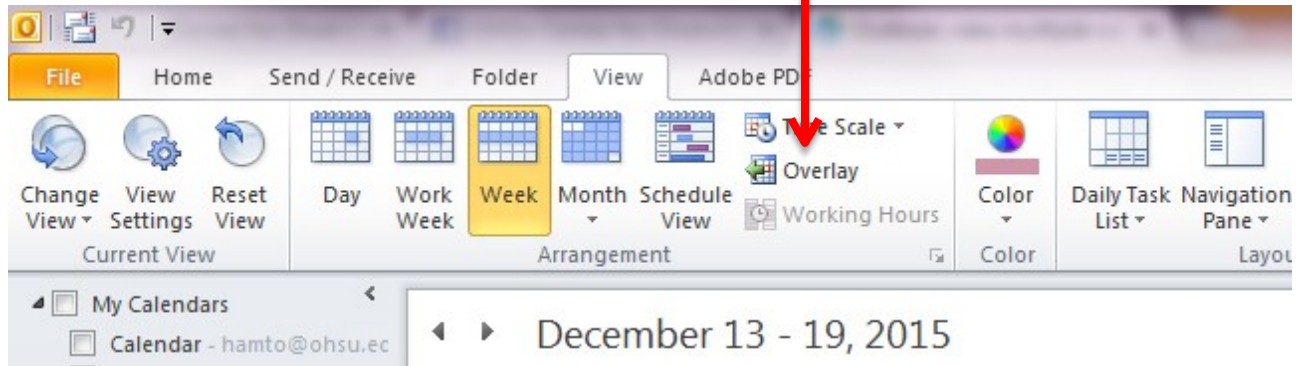


STEP 5: The RSOC should now appear on Outlook as an overlay calendar. Your Outlook calendar view may look similar to the following layout.

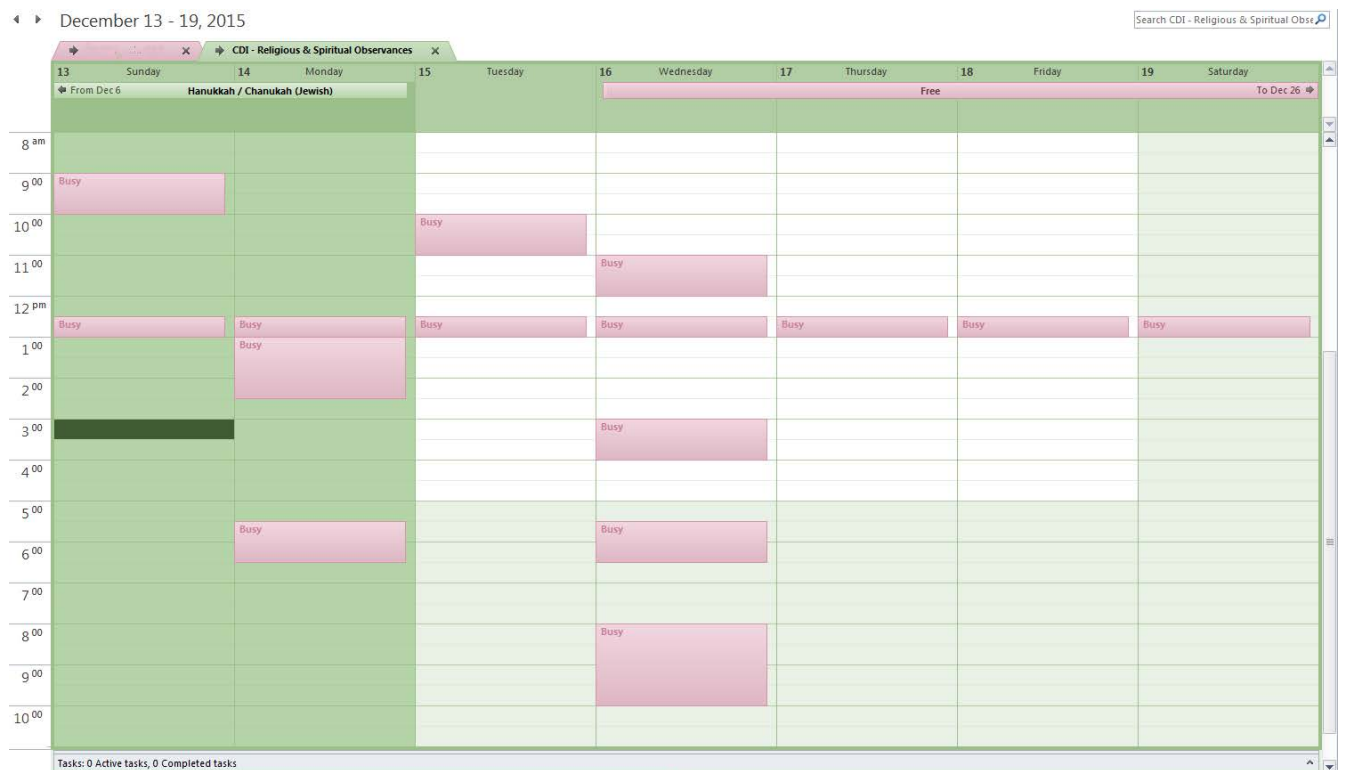
To overlay the Religious and Spiritual Observances calendar onto your own, simply click on arrow on the top left corner.



Alternatively, you may click on “Overlay” from the “View” tab.



VIEW OF THE OVERLAID CALENDAR



SAMPLE DETAIL ENTRY

Each entry includes a link to the [Religious Reasonable Accommodation Form](#), as well as contact link to the AAEO Department, which manages requests for religious accommodations.

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Word document titled "Hanukkah / Chanukah (Jewish) - Event". The document is in the "Event" template, with a ribbon showing "File", "Event", "Insert", "Format Text", and "Review". The "Event" ribbon includes options like "Save & Close", "Delete", "Open in Browser", "Copy to My Calendar", "Forward", "Appointment", "Online Meeting", "Show As" (set to "Busy"), "Reminder" (set to "None"), "Recurrence", "Time Zones", "Categorize", "Private", "High Importance", "Low Importance", "Tags", and "Zoom".

The document content includes the following text:

Subject: Hanukkah / Chanukah (Jewish)

Location: [Empty field]

Start time: Sun 12/6/2015 12:00 AM [All day event checked]

End time: Mon 12/14/2015 12:00 AM

Hanukkah is the Jewish festival of lights, and lasts for eight days. Hanukkah commemorates the Jewish struggle for religious freedom. The history of the holiday involves a historic military victory in which a Jewish sect called the Maccabees defeated the Syrian Greeks. The celebration commemorates a miracle in which a sacred temple flame burned for eight days on only one day's worth of oil.

General Practices: On each of the eight nights of Hanukkah, Jewish families light an additional candle of the menorah candelabrum until all eight candles are lit. Jews celebrate with food and song, as well as exchanging gifts for eight days.

Date details: Hanukkah begins at sundown on the first day.

Recommended Accommodations: Academics and work permitted, not a work holiday. Provide food accommodation as requested (kosher restrictions apply ~~apoto~~ pancakes, doughnuts or other fried food is customary).

The University recognizes the commitment of members of the OHSU community to pursue a spiritual or religious practice or non-beliefs and actively supports the right to do so in a climate of inclusion and respect.

The Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity (AAEO) department can help with religious accommodation requests. To request accommodation for a religious or spiritual observance, please complete the [Religious Reasonable Accommodations Form](#) and send it directly to AAEO.

Questions about reasonable accommodations for religious days may be emailed to the AAEO at aaeo@ohsu.edu. For more information, call 503-494-5148.

In Shared Folder: [CDI - Religious & Spiritual Observances](#)

Last modified by Nebu Fekede on 8/12/2015

Any issues? Email cdi@ohsu.edu