Dietary Challenges for People with Diabetes During Jewish Festivals

Shabbat

- Challah is a traditional sweetened bread.
- Wine and grape juice are used in a blessing.
- Traditionally a large three course meal.
- Kiddish after synagogue.



Rosh Hashanah

- Honey and sweet foods are traditional to represent a sweet New Year.
- Extra sweet challah and apple are dipped in honey.
- Tzimmes and honey cake are traditional.



Yom Kippur

- 25-hour fast.
- Pre- and post-fast meals are often large and include more challah.



Hanukkah

Celebrates oil so foods are fried.

Latkes and doughnuts are traditional.

Usually shop bought.



Purim

Hamantaschen contain sweet fillings.

Mishloach manot usually consists of sugary snacks and drinks.

Alcohol and getting drunk is encouraged!

Matzah replaces bread and grains.

Passover

Passover meal is very large and involves four glasses of wine.



Kosher for Passover UPFs.



Shavuot

Traditionally associated with dairy foods — land of milk and honey.

Cheesecakes and blintzes are very popular.

Two festival meals.

Sukkot

- Kugels and challah are traditional.
- Usual to invite others and the meals are large.



Common Challenges Across Festivals

Fast acting high-carb foods appear in many meals.

Sweet dishes are common in celebrations.

Celebratory meals are often large.

Seven fasting days in the year.

Reliance on UPFs.