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*“The Lunar New Year celebrates a chance to leave behind the troubles of the past year and invite prosperity and good luck moving forward. Recognizing this day as a state holiday acknowledges the diversity and cultural significance Asian Americans bring to California and provides an opportunity for all Californians to participate in the significance of the Lunar Year.” –* Governor Gavin Newsom in his [signing message for AB259](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/AB-2596-SIGNING.pdf?emrc=4d6ee2) authored by Assemblymember Evan Low.

**Overview**

California now has three new state holidays, including Juneteenth, Genocide Remembrance and Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year, which usually takes place at the end of January or the beginning of February, is predominantly celebrated by Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and other Asian communities. Based on the lunar calendar, the special event marks the arrival of spring.

**Upcoming Dates for Lunar New Year**

Lunar New Year is the beginning of a calendar year whose months are [moon cycles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunar_phase), based on the [lunar calendar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunar_calendar) or [lunisolar calendar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunisolar_calendar).

The upcoming Lunar New Year dates corresponding to the Gregorian calendar are:

Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026

Saturday, Feb. 6, 2027

**CELEBRATIONS**

Celebrating Lunar New Year looks different for everyone. You may choose to take a day or a week off to spend with family, or celebrate in the office with co-workers. Below are some ways to affirm the ways you celebrate.

**Taking Time Off**

As of 2022, The [new state law](https://openstates.org/ca/bills/20212022/AB2596/) authorizes any state employee to receive eight hours of holiday credit rather than personal holiday credit and utilize eight hours of vacation, annual leave or compensating time off to observe the Lunar New Year. APISA is currently seeking guidance from leadership on how to report hours. Until further guidance, staff must take personal vacation hours to take time off. You can help spread awareness about Lunar New Year by requesting time off and noting to your supervisor it is specifically to celebrate Lunar New Year.

* Request time off ahead of a check-in with a supervisor. Here are some sample e-mail [requests](https://ucop.box.com/s/d30tjmigmuvp9w376ns5rd70ezcvtn7p).
* Consider sharing that you are celebrating in your Out of Office reply. Gather inspiration with these fellow [staff member examples](https://ucop.box.com/s/d30tjmigmuvp9w376ns5rd70ezcvtn7p).

**Celebrating at Work**

On site or remote, you can share your celebration with co-workers by:

* Suggest a team lunch outing (or order in) to a [local restaurant in Chinatown Oakland](https://www.visitoakland.com/blog/post/must-eats-in-oakland-chinatown/).
* Focus a team check-in around reflections on Lunar New Year themes such as prosperity.
* Take a [team walking tour or a snack break](https://www.oaklandchinatownchamber.org/root/whats_in_chinatown?locale=en) in Chinatown Oakland.
* Spread awareness by celebrating with a Lunar Year virtual background. [UC-themed ones available here](https://ucop.box.com/s/k55nu4l7dkkb43z5hs6ppxp9ftfy6rgv)

**EXAMPLES OF REQUESTS TO SUPERVISOR**

Subject: Time off Request for Year of the Rabbit Lunar New Year

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing to request a *day/week* off to observe Lunar New Year. This year, the high holiday time falls on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *[See calendar dates for upcoming Lunar New Year here]*, with Lunar New Year falling on \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Recognized as a state holiday, I would like to request eight hours of holiday credit rather than personal holiday credit and utilizing eight hours of vacation, annual leave or compensating tie off to observe Lunar New Year as [reccomended by state law](https://openstates.org/ca/bills/20212022/AB2596/).

Thank you for your consideration,

Subject: Taking Time Off For Lunar New Year of the Cat

Hello \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

As recommended by the [2022 state law recognizing Lunar New Year as a state holiday,](https://openstates.org/ca/bills/20212022/AB2596/) I am writing to request eight hours of holiday credit rather than personal holiday credit, vacation time, annual leave or compensating time off to celebrate Vietnamese Lunar New Year on \_\_\_\_\_\_. Given the significance of this holiday (it’s like Christmas, Thanksgiving and everyone’s birthday rolled into one) it is important for me to be with my family.

Thank you for considering,

**EXAMPLE OUT OF OFFICE REPLY**

Thank you for your email. I am out of the office from \_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_ in observation of California state holiday, Lunar New Year of the Cat.

I will respond to you email upon return on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Chúc mừng năm mới OR 새해 복 많이 받아 OR 新年快乐 OR 恭喜发财(Happy New Year),