

November 25, 2025  
UGCH All Staff

Dear Colleagues:

If you decorate your clinical space for the holidays, we would like to send a friendly reminder that our patients and colleagues come from a variety of faiths and traditions. We hope to make everyone feel that they belong, and their presence is valued. Youth who do not see their religion or culture represented in holiday decorations may feel invisible, minimized, or disrespected.

**Please make every attempt to be inclusive if you decorate for the holidays.** One option would be to focus on nature using snowflakes, pinecones, etc.

Attached please find possible decorations to consider. Below is a list of some fall and winter holidays\*:

- Bodhi Day: A Buddhist holiday commemorating the day that Siddhartha Gautama, this historical Buddha, experienced enlightenment. Celebrated on Dec. 8
- Christmas: Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus, the central figure of Christianity. (December 25, except for Eastern Orthodox Christians, who celebrate Christmas on January 7.)
- Diwali: A five-day Hindu festival of lights
- Eid al-Fitr: A celebration that marks the end of Ramadan in the Muslim faith (shifting dates)
- Hanukkah: An 8-day Jewish festival of lights (typical symbol: menorah)
- Kwanza: A weeklong secular holiday honoring African American heritage, celebrated Dec 26-Jan 2 each year
- Lunar New Year: A traditional Chinese holiday marking the end of winter (typical symbol: red envelope)
- Yule: A Wiccan or pagan celebration of the winter solstice that takes place every year between December 20 and Dec 23.

\*Source for holiday information: Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding

Sincerely,

Department of Pediatrics Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee