

ITA December 2020 Newsletter

COVID-19 Testing Updates:

- The [Sand Canyon Urgent Care](#) facility will now be available for IUSD employees to be tested every 30 days; if you've been exposed, of course, you can be tested again within those 30 days. They are also expanding their hours to be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and are adding more staff starting January 1, 2021. The district is still negotiating with Sand Canyon to allow testing over the weekend.

- Blue Shield is working on a new program for subscribers (PPO/HMO) to receive COVID-19 home test kits upon request, delivered to the home the next business day. The kits are then returned through the mail and results are received within 48 hours (generally). More details will be available when we return from Winter break.

- Our insurance does cover COVID-19-related treatment. Call the number on the back of your Blue Shield insurance card if you have questions about anything in particular.

- The City of Irvine offers free [testing at the Great Park](#) to all residents and people who work in Irvine. They have recently expanded services to offer more appointments.

- The [County of Orange](#) also offers free tests in multiple locations, including the OC Fairgrounds and the Anaheim Convention Center. They also offer at-home testing kits, sent and returned by mail. Call 714-834-2000 to reach the OC Health Care Agency.

NEA Representative Assembly:

[Declarations of Candidacy](#) are located in the back of your December/January edition of California Educator. The RA will be held virtually again this year, but it will be a rewarding experience to meet with up to 10,000 fellow educators from throughout the US as we move forward with new federal leadership.

CTA Conferences and Workshops:

All of [CTA's conferences and workshops](#) will be held as scheduled, but all will be virtual. You can still receive salary credit for attending if you apply for pre-approval for salary credit, register for the conference, enroll with CSU Chico (at the registration site) for credit, complete the requirements, request and submit the transcript to HR on time.

The registration is free, and this year, CTA has made arrangements with CSU Chico to cover the cost of the units as a member benefit! The Good Teaching Conference, in particular, offers dozens of choices of training so you can choose those that are most useful for you.

CTA Petition:

CTA is petitioning to eliminate state standardized testing for this year. You can sign it [here](#).

Be Safe:

Please do all you can to continue using the safety protocols of washing hands, avoiding crowds, wearing masks. And please remind your students to do the same when they are at home. Maybe they will help remind their parents to do what they have learned in school. We need to avoid another surge after the winter break!

Thank you!

From ITA's Executive Board, a sincere thank you to all of the Site Reps and to all members for contributing their opinions, suggestions, experiences, and ideas. To do all that on top of working under the most extreme challenges, totally unexpected and unprecedented, is beyond admirable. We always expect the best of our students and ourselves, and though this year has been unlike any other, our students have continued to learn in completely new ways.

For the next two weeks, we hope everyone has a restful and joyful holiday. We are grateful to have so much at a time when others are suffering painful losses. Focusing on what we have helps mitigate our fear

and our sadness about what we're missing right now. But with the vaccine coming our way (CTA is advocating for educators to be in the 2nd tier of recipients), we can anticipate turning the corner. After the 1918 flu epidemic, the Roaring Twenties ensued; we can look forward to good times of celebrating together in the next Roaring Twenties.