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| http://can2-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/email_templates/logos/000/006/464/original/tea_small.jpgTEA Tidbits--December 18, 2020Dear TEA members,Return To Learn in JanuaryThe district made the decision to return EC-5 students to in-person learning on January 5, middle school on January 19, and high school on January 25. First, I want to recognize that there is a deep level of passion, and a wide variety of opinions regarding this decision. All of them are welcomed and valued by this president. I want to publicly thank our early childhood and elementary ARs for their tireless work this month gathering member feedback around return to learn and for helping us to advocate. There will be some improvements to testing availability and turnaround. Staff who are showing symptoms of COVID will have exclusive access to free, high quality, high reliability rapid response COVID testing three mornings per week by appointment, sponsored by Larimer County. Look for details from the district soon. In addition, the district will also be providing asymptomatic screening one afternoon per week. If you think you may have been exposed, or you have visited or may soon visit someone outside of your normal "bubble," this is a great option. Look for details after break.TEA continues to advocate for better, more consistent communication regarding quarantines, contact tracing, and related issues. We will be advocating for easier access to PPE and better communication about how that PPE is acquired. In addition, we want to remind you of a few things as you work to protect your safety: 1. **Do not gather in groups of 10 or more, or travel out of state this holiday, if at all possible.** Community spread is the number one variable affecting the safety of schools. The CDC recommends self-isolating for 14 days after you travel out of state, or gather in groups of 10 or more. EC-5 will be returning to work during that window after the winter holidays. Please help keep each other safe.2. **Coverage of others' classes is optional, per Article 13-7 of the MOU.** Avoid intermingling of cohorts whenever possible. 3. **Ask your principal for the PPE you need.** 4. **If you are not getting the planning or lunch time you are owed, please tell your AR.** Mental health for teachers is just as important as mental health for students. Students deserve a well-prepared, well-rested, well-organized teacher. We can work to get you what you need to succeed.We are aware that there are many divergent opinions on this issue. TEA will continue to push for clear metrics that clearly state when the district should be remote; better safety precautions for employees; and open, transparent communications around quarantines and contact tracing, as well as reasonable workload expectations and teacher agency around how you help students learn.January 4 is a teacher directed dayJanuary 4 is a teacher directed work day. While the district is setting up Ed Camp and other trainings for people who would like to do that work, they are optional. This is your negotiated day to do what needs to be done for you and your students. PMI forms due on Dec. 31[Go to this webpage](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/mRshnjzLbfRUAJcmEcvG03xPgN-IGkuQShJp1-DHp7IO-ZdzwMMEryXQf3Jh3Ar1HthkxF4p9AWMZ3lS5hgp4WgmxWNLhUAGh3Xy54jBnqLiCfK--mhcXpcqWatvxydMUUjqsyC-z5ZTaVBAzklVIu9_JToivWLaMUdt8STA--k6ao1S0f6Luk3cdcpPxTH5z84F2I90U7OPzJ6LR7vjyl7eMHh8-TBiUb9rtHJzGH6MNC8ttsLs0NXLN--x1mIbylaL8Yqh_bosXtRxq8VOBMRThVjavaY-8E2FE11h-uc/37t/AO2S2aBgQDeee6p8AwyAWA/h0/oda3V0MJi4gKXPtwVXxwHzpvjH_zf0A4ltST6fR8H78) for the materials.Enjoy your holiday!Seriously. Make this the last email you read. Turn this device off. Go climb a mountain. Or bake something. Or hug a child. We appreciate you!**Solidarity!**Sincerely,https://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51019/c/147/images/Andy%20professional%20pic.jpgAndy Crisman tea@coloradoea.org [h](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/zMhPeRdLSH9QavqI0KIPYbYYEpXzaTr0nk3JMyQs3ilVrsrBEQqvBO3l0oEHcMOH9114LH1gfv8cI9NzbeZPikWMsBpsV1OPSI2tz_pvA_ILC9JHkTFLLsitSytK2jVF4hLHGNNIlHZoahBlHSM8vFuexFlcyKTFnvz_julXakKcQp36in3VxN5WSy6RDm4NwEwknVXudZ5ss9OcUleO-D0I6rqEu1wcptX2jSC9KTtvBDTkwbXJEDj5ck1FCQA3/37t/AO2S2aBgQDeee6p8AwyAWA/h1/n2auyFeGpXqqIvMBvrr3NkSS0wOENbdkolcuJwKvmmk)ttp://thompsoneducationassociation.org  |

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