

Give Me A Reason



The **Give Me A Reason** drug prevention initiative is a **voluntary** drug testing program of Operation UNITE, designed as a way for our youth to avoid peer pressure and give them a reason to say “no” to drug use and experimentation. When confronted with drugs, this initiative provides youth an opportunity to say:

“I can’t use drugs, my parents drug test me!”

Give Me A Reason (GMAR) provides **free** saliva-based drug testing kits to parents or caregivers. The non-invasive test is then given within the privacy of your home with results in approximately 15 minutes.

Why should I drug test?

Drug testing is a logical and simple way to hold children accountable to family rules concerning use or abuse of drugs – illegal, prescription or over-the-counter. **The goal of this program is to help your child make positive life choices when faced with peer pressure.** Young people are especially vulnerable to drug abuse – a time when the brain and body are still developing. Studies show that the earlier a teen begins using drugs, the more likely he or she will develop a substance abuse problem or addiction. Teens who stay away from drugs in high school are less likely to develop a substance abuse problem later in life.

After alcohol, nicotine vaping, and cannabis, illicit substances and narcotics other than heroin (including the nonmedical use of prescription drugs) are among the most commonly used drugs by teenagers:

- 4.9% of 8th graders
- 5.7% of 10th graders
- 8.0% of 12th graders

- NIDA’s 2022 Monitoring the Future survey

Parental concerns

Parents worry that participation in a drug testing program will destroy the trust they have with their children. However, **Parents have a responsibility to guide and protect their children.** Parents who drug test their children are taking a firm stand against drug use and providing their child a reason to say “No.”

Confidentiality

No personal data will be collected. All tests are administered confidentially within your family unit. Each kit contains a self-addressed, pre-paid envelope and form asking if your test results were positive or negative – and, if positive, for which drugs. An on-line form is also available.

What type of test is used?

The American Screening Corporation *Oral Cube*® test involves taking a non-invasive swab of the mouth and comparing the results to a color bar on the kit. Each kit tests for a variety of drugs including: Amphetamines (Adderall, Meth, Ecstasy), Barbiturates (sedative-hypnotics), Benzodiazepines (Xanax, Valium, Roofies), Cocaine, Fentanyl, Marijuana, Methadone, Methamphetamine, Opiates (Codeine, Heroin, Morphine, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone), Phencyclidine (PCP), Synthetic Cannabinoids (Spice, K2, synthetic marijuana), Buprenorphine (Suboxone, Subutex), and Alcohol.

What if the test is positive?

If a positive test result occurs, parents/caregivers should contact their family doctor, Family Resource & Youth Service Center, area hospital, health department, or other professional to determine the next course of action to take. A listing of resources is available at www.operationunite.org.

Where can I obtain a kit?

To view a listing of locations where the free *Oral Cube*® drug testing kits are available visit www.operationunite.org and follow the link for “Give Me A Reason” under the “Programs” tab on the home page.

NOTICE: A “negative” or “invalid” *Oral Cube* test result shall not negate any positive drug test administered at your child’s school.