

NORTH BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief's Corner

North Branch Police Department and TEST MY TEEN working together to provide free drug test kit to parents and concerned about the safety of their teenagers

Testing your teenagers for drugs is a commonly used tool for parents once a son or daughter has already been found to be using drugs. If a teenager has been arrested for using drugs, testing becomes mandatory. Testing for drugs is also a way for parents to verify whether or not their child is using drugs when they show suspicious behavior. In addition, parents are now using test kits to keep their children safe and offer them a more socially acceptable excuse for not accepting illegal drugs from their peers. Pressure from friends can be extreme and saying, "no, my parents test me." Can be easier than just saying, "No". This tells friends that they're 100% certain they'll get caught, get in trouble and be asked where they got the stuff.

The North Branch Police Department has become aware of a program other agencies in the area have formed an alliance with providing free drug test kits. The program is Test My Teen and can be accessed through the web side www.testmyteen.com. If you apply for a library car, you can access the internet and the North Branch Public Library. This provides you with a free 10-panel drug testing kit, just for the cost of shipping (less than \$6.00). Test results are available in less than three minutest after using the test kit.

All you need to obtain the free kit is a voucher with the discount code on it. These vouchers are available at the North Branch Police Department, from all officers, including School Resource Officers Ron Rollings and Wayne Schwalbe, and the Police Department web site www.NorthBranchPD.com.

I agree that testing your teenager for drugs is a personal decision you as a parent must make, but I want you to be aware of what is available to you. By looking at our own lives and different decisions we've had to make, we know it isn't always easy to say no. Let's do all we can to keep our children safe. If you feel this is a program that you could use, we have brochures in the police department lobby. Just pick one up- it's confidential and we ask no questions.