



# CITY OF AVON

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## “Test My Teen” Drug Prevention Program

Concerned, involved parents are the strongest deterrent kids have for staying off drugs; but peer pressure to experiment with drugs is one of the biggest stumbling blocks kids face. To help both parents and teens win the battle against drug involvement, the Avon Police Department is kicking off a new “Test My Teen” drug-prevention program that is designed to keep parents in touch with what is really going on with their teens and give teens a way to stop peer pressure dead in its tracks when friends urge them to experiment with drugs and alcohol.

The program allows parents to download a voucher for one free, home drug-test kit by clicking on the link above. Parents only pay for shipping of the kit. Electronic vouchers require no interaction with police, thereby providing parents total anonymity and the ability for families to privately address the issue. In addition, the kits are shipped using non-descript packaging to also preserve the family’s privacy. Parents without internet access can pick up a printed voucher at Avon’s Police Department, located at 36145 Detroit Road, Avon, Ohio.

The program helps create a very positive, effective partnership in fighting drug use among teens. For years, police have been the first to know and parents the last to know when local kids used drugs. With this program, we can work with parents and turn this thing around.

This program provides families an effective tool in the fight against drug experimentation and use. When teens’ so-called friends pressure them to experiment with drugs or alcohol, they can tell their friends, ‘No thanks. My parents test me.’ That takes the pressure off teens to defend their choice for not using. It also says to peers, ‘If I use I’ll get caught for certain and then I’ll have to explain where I got the drugs.’ This program also provides a way for teens previously caught using drugs to rebuild trust with their parents. Parents can know for sure if their teen is telling the truth when they say, ‘No, I am no longer using.’

Parents who would like to know more about the Test My Teen program can go to the program’s website at [www.testmyteen.com](http://www.testmyteen.com). There they will find the answers to many of their questions, information on what to look for, conversation starters they can use to talk with their teen about drugs, and even references to counselors who can help them. Free kit vouchers, however, must be downloaded.