

VERNON TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

RANDOM DRUG TESTING

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF DRUG TESTING IN SCHOOLS?

The purpose of testing is preventative. The sole purpose of the program is to identify those students who are at risk and to get them the professional assistance they require. At no time may the results of such testing be made public and it may not be shared with law enforcement or school administration.

WHO CAN BE TESTED?

Anyone who participates in after school clubs and activities, athletics, and any senior requesting parking privileges. Participation in any of the above activities can not take place unless a Consent To Test form has been filed with the Random Drug Testing Coordinator. Any student who wishes to do so may voluntarily enter the testing pool.

CAN I REFUSE TO TAKE THE TEST?

Refusal to supply a urine sample when tested will be considered a *Positive* Test Result.

WHAT TYPES OF SUBSTANCES IS THE TESTING DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY?

Testing may include but not be limited to the following substances or their metabolites: amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cocaine, marijuana, oxycodone, PCP, Ecstasy, Methadone, methamphetamines, opiates, anabolic steroids, tricyclic antidepressants and/or other substances defined as a controlled substance by NJ or Federal law.

HOW CAN I BE REMOVED FROM THE TESTING POOL?

You can be removed from the testing pool if you file an Opt-Out form with the Random Drug Testing Coordinator. If you Opt-Out you can change your mind within a 2 week period. After that time you must wait a calendar year in order to Opt-In to the testing pool. During that period the student is not eligible to participate in any clubs & activities, athletics and also will not be granted parking privileges. Those students who do not file an Opt-In form will be considered ineligible for participation in the aforementioned activities and will be considered to have Opted-Out of the testing pool.

TESTING PROCEDURE

A confidential testing schedule will be created by the Random Drug Testing Coordinator at the start of each month in the school year. The method of selection will be based on a pool of eligible students and the method to choose the students will be conducted in a manner to ensure that it is random.

Testing will only occur on student contact days during the academic year.

The selection of eligible students for testing will be conducted in a purely and entirely random basis. This selection will be carried out by the Random Drug Testing Coordinator.

- The RDT Coordinator will compile a list of eligible students through the use of a signed and submitted drug consent form.
- The RDT Coordinator or designee will notify students selected for testing and escort them directly to the nurses office. The testing site will have a secured bathroom that will maximize the privacy of the participant and ensure

the integrity of the sample collection process. Water sources shall be turned off and the toilet water will be blueed to prevent adulteration of test specimens.

- In the event of student absence, an alternate selection will be made from the testing pool.

Every effort will be made to minimize the disruption to the academic progress of classes and to maintain the confidentiality of students selected for testing.

WHAT TYPE OF TEST IS IT?

The test requires the collection of a urine sample.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE TEST RESULTS?

Results are kept in a student file which is confidential and by law must be separated from all other student records. The results may only be shared with parents, the testing lab and the Testing Coordinator and the Student Assistance Counselor. The results may not be shared with law enforcement. Upon graduation or the end of their high school career, all the student's testing files will be destroyed.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE TEST IS NEGATIVE?

Parents will be notified of a negative result. Results will be placed in the student's confidential file and the student's name will remain in the testing pool for possible testing at a future time.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE TEST NOT NEGITIVE?

A non-negative test result indicates that the urine sample is in some way tainted. A non-negative result is sent to the testing laboratory retained by the school for further evaluation. After analysis, the lab will forward the results to a Medical Review Officer (a doctor on staff at the lab). The MRO will contact the parent to determine if the student is currently on medication or to determine other possible causes for the non-negative test.

If the test is determined to show positive results for illegal drugs then MRO notifies the parent and the Random Drug Testing Coordinator of the positive result.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE RESULT IS POSITIVE?

Upon receipt of a positive test result from the testing lab the Random Drug Testing Coordinator will take the following action:

First Positive Test - Students will not be permitted to park on school grounds for the duration of the treatment program. The student will have a minimum of 6 visits with the Student Assistance Counselor at the school, the first visit occurring within a week of the confirmed positive test result. The student will attend an Early Intervention Program. The student must enter the program within one week of being confirmed positive. The parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for the cost of the treatment program.

Second Positive Test - The student will have a minimum of 6 visits with the Student Assistance Counselor at the school, the first visit occurring within a week of the confirmed positive test result. The student will attend an Early Intervention Program. The student must enter the program within one week of being confirmed positive. Students will not be permitted to park on school grounds for the duration of the treatment program.

The student must participate in a substance abuse evaluation and follow any recommendations made by the evaluator. The student will be removed from any athletics, extra-curricular activities, or school clubs for a minimum of thirty consecutive calendar days. The student must receive written clearance from the SAC to return to their activities.

The parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for the cost of the treatment program.

Any previously identified ineligible participant must submit a negative drug test prior to returning to any athletics, extra-curricular activities, or school clubs as well as before having his/her parking reinstated. The follow up drug test may be performed at school using the approved urine screen upon agreement between the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the administration/SAC. Should this re-screen be “non-negative”, the sample shall be sent for confirmatory testing and MRO analysis as described above.

Third Positive Test - The student will have a minimum of 6 visits with the Student Assistance Counselor at the school, the first visit occurring within a week of the confirmed positive test result. The student will attend an Early Intervention Program. The student must enter the program within one week of being confirmed positive. The parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for the cost of the treatment program.

The student must participate in a substance abuse evaluation and follow any recommendations made by the evaluator.

The student will have his/her parking permit revoked for one calendar year.

Any previously identified ineligible participant must submit a negative drug test prior to returning to any athletics, extra-curricular activities, or school clubs as well as before having his/her parking reinstated. The follow up drug test may be performed at school using the approved urine screen upon agreement between the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the administration/SAC. Should this re-screen be “non-negative”, the sample shall be sent for confirmatory testing and MRO analysis as described above.

IS THERE AN APPEAL PROCEDURE?

A student and/or their guardian may request a re-test of his/her specimen at their own expense at a laboratory approved by the school district and which follows SAMHSA standards. Written requests must be received by the school within 48 hours of receiving the results of their drug test. The previously submitted specimen will be forwarded to the approved lab.

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