



## Developments Due to COVID-19

Below are key measures taken by DFCA to resolve challenges arising from COVID-19 pandemic. Each solution was created through the lens of identifying opportunities to improve the program in serving our members and their families well after the pandemic.

1. Challenge: If students are not in school, how can random drug testing protect them?
  - a. Solution: Home Test Kits
    - i. We are Committed to fulfilling our mission and our promised testing. Using the same software that normally identifies the candidates for random testing, DFCA will be sending Home Test Kits to approximately 1000 of our members' homes. This will require no school assistance.
    - ii. Simple instructional sheets were created by a graphic designer for easy use of DFCA's top-of-the-line test cups.
    - iii. Currently gathering supplies to ship all-in-one kits including the tests (12 panel test cup + separate nicotine test), gloves, blue dye, medical forms, and pre-paid shipping supplies for lab confirmations.
  - b. Post-Pandemic: While discussing details of this project with our test supplier, an opportunity for at-home nicotine and alcohol tests was identified as well. DFCA may be able to offer families a resource to purchase these tests at a greatly reduced price. At-home kits can be kept on hand so students in the program can rely on the possibility of a test at home or at school to support their drug-free decisions. Low purchase prices will be a perk for DFCA parents.
2. Challenge: How can the families report results and get advice when the school is closed?
  - a. Solution: Web-based Resources
    - i. A microsite is being created for confidential reporting of results that will also protect our teens by requiring no personal identifying information.
    - ii. Parent resources on DrugFreeClubs.com provide advice and support from online communities available to help when facilities are closed.
  - b. Post-Pandemic: The creation of this form and provision of these resources has potential to provide a platform for DFCA to serve home-schooled students.
    - i. Provides a reliable prevention strategy to a group of teens that is often overlooked.

- ii. Reward events in the district where a home-school student lives could offer opportunities to interact with local peers who are also in DFCA.
- 3. Challenge: With school closings and limited learning, how can we ensure that teens are receiving drug education and heightened awareness opportunities particularly as “stay at home” mandates begin to lift.
  - a. Solution: DFCA contracted with an individual who is a former middle school teacher and current online content author. The position was added specifically to maintain thorough, direct communication to members and parents without the need to add to the workload of teachers or school staff.
    - i. Printed components to be included with at-home test kits
    - ii. Monthly overview provided to school and families of content to be covered for the month.
      - 1. Content will also be complimentary to current partnership with the Ohio Opiate Education Alliance.
    - iii. Weekly communications to members and parents via email and a strategic social media approach.
  - b. Post-Pandemic: A more strategic approach to DFCA’s education component will offer schools greater peace of mind that the subject is being addressed on a regular basis even when they may not be covering it. By hiring a teacher to perform the work in a manner that educators are accustomed to, schools and grant makers may have more liberty to direct funds toward program expenses.