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Dhlomo expresses shock at the speed the killer drugs are reaching other parts of the Province

KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo is now appealing to parents to closely monitor the behaviour and conduct of their children to ascertain whether they are involved in drugs.

This follows statistics gleaned that show that 23 school going age children were admitted for drug over-dose over Easter Holidays in various Pietermaritzburg based Hospitals.

‘We are really shocked and dismayed at the speed in which this killer drug is mushrooming. Just last week-end families in the North of Durban were mourning and burying their two under 20 years old children and now we learn of this! As we speak there is a 20 year old girl in a very bad condition admitted at Northdale Hospital who mentioned this drug.

As schools open this week, we are afraid that this drug taking may extensively expand and reach other areas; cautions Dhlomo.

The Pietermaritzburg episode being dealt with now comes in at the heels of the KwaMashu and Reunion Area heavy drug intake that saw 44 children being admitted and two losing their lives.

MEC Dhlomo says parents can assist and intervene if in their children they notice telling symptoms like:

- Auditory hallucination hearing voices
- Visual hallucination seeing things that other people don't
- Delusional – feeling of greatness
- Dehydration
- Aggressiveness
- Depression
- Vomiting, as well as,
- Severe abdominal pain

‘We should by all means get involved as we are told that at initial intake this drug does make one feel good and that leads to over-dose, we are thus calling upon all the relevant stakeholders to mount their campaigns to fight this calamity.

We wonder if the peddlers of this drug do also give it to their own children;’ says the MEC.