

MEDIA STATEMENT

02 NOVEMBER 2023

MORE PUPILS IN EASTERN CAPE SUFFER FROM FOOD BORNE DISEASES AS ECDOH WARNS PUBLIC

BHISHO - 54 more pupils from Zingcuka Primary School arrived at SS Gida hospital in Alice exhibiting food borne diseases symptoms on Thursday morning.

The pupils were presenting with diarrhea, vomiting, and one of them had shortness of breath and has been put on continuous oxygen.

This afternoon on Wednesday night three more pupils arrived at the hospital experiencing itchiness of the body and restlessness. They were admitted and treated by on duty healthcare workers.

All pupils are still admitted for observations but the department can confirm that they are all in stable conditions, will be reviewed by ward doctor later today.

On Wednesday eight (8) pupils from Mgxotyeni primary school near Debe Nek were admitted to SS Dida Hospital in Keiskammahoek where they received treatment for food borne diseases.

This afternoon they started to have diarrhea, and to vomit - while some complained of severe headaches.

They all confirmed that they only felt sick after they ate chips and biscuits which they bought from a spaza shop allegedly owned by a foreign national.

At this stage it is suspected that the pupils suffered from food borne diseases, but they have since been kept under surveillance but they are in stable condition.

Last week, about 120 pupils who were transported by provincial Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to Frontier Hospital in Komani.

EMS first transported 34 pupils between the ages of 8 and 15 years old who presented with abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting to Frontier Hospital from a local school in Mlungisi.

More pupils from another school around Komani suffered from an alleged food borne disease. Tests are yet to confirm the cause of the sickness.

In all, 120 pupils presented signs of itchiness, some had shortness of breath. Some had high temperature, others vital signs were normal.

The department would like to confirm that there have been No fatalities.
Issued by the Eastern Cape Department of Health

For inquiries, contact: Departmental spokesperson, Dr Sizwe Kupelo on 083 3780196 or Mr Mkhululi Ndamase, MEC's spokesperson on 071 851 8338.



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