

# More than 1-million SA youth to undergo paid work experience

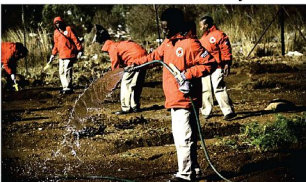


Photo: Dept Environmental Affairs

President Cyril Ramaphosa launched an Employment Service (YES) programme at the end of March at a media briefing in Fourways, Johannesburg.

Ramaphosa met the first 100 young people to participate in the YES initiative, which aims to see more than one million young South Africans being offered paid work experience over the next three years, as part of placing the needs of and opportunities for young people at the centre of inclusive economic growth.

Led by the President, the YES initiative is a collaborative effort between

government, business, labour and civil society. The initiative is informed by research, which has shown that one year of work experience, coupled with a CV and reference letter, increases a young person's chances of finding employment by three times.

The Youth Environmental Service Programme emphasises three pillars:

- Community development / service
  - Accredited learning and skills development
  - Exit opportunities
- The programme has three channels through which employment opportunities

can occur:

- Corporate work experiences: businesses that participate in the programme create one-year paid positions for youth aged between 18 and 35, in addition to these organisations' current employment numbers, YES is an additive;
- SMME host placements: businesses that do not have the capacity to place

more people in their organisations, have the option of sponsoring the salary for a one-year placement in small and medium enterprises (in year one for 7 to 10 months); and

- SMME development: young people are empowered to start and grow their own businesses, with support from YES in the form of training, seed funding and value-chain integration.

## Get Flu Vaccines - National Institute says

To avoid getting flu, the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) has advised the public to get vaccinated.

Getting the flu vaccine can reduce flu illnesses, visits to the clinics or to doctors rooms, missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations," said the NICD.

The influenza season in South Africa occurs in the winter months and is expected to start in the coming weeks. On average, the season begins in the first week of June. However, recently, the season has started as early as the last week of April and as late as the first week of July.

The influenza vaccine for the 2018 season is currently available at public health facilities and pharmacies.

"It takes about two weeks after vaccination for protective antibodies to develop, it is recommended that people get vaccinated as soon as possible to ensure that they are protected before influenza season starts," said the NICD.

According to the NICD, the best time to get the flu vaccine is before the season starts between March-June but getting it later will protect individuals during the rest of the season.

Influenza viruses are constantly changing and immunity from vaccine lasts for about a year. It is therefore necessary to get vaccinated each year before the influenza season. Vaccination of people with higher risk of severe flu directly protects them from flu infections. Other vulnerable groups that can benefit from the flu vaccine include pregnant women, the elderly and people with chronic illnesses.

"It is also essential to practice good hygiene by regularly and thoroughly washing hands and protecting coughs and sneezes (coughing or sneezing into a tissue to help prevent the spread of seasonal influenza. People who have flu-like symptoms should stay at home to avoid infecting others," said the NICD.

— Info from Sanees - Edited



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## Emergency Numbers

### Try Our Word Puzzle

See how many words you can make from the letters. No words to be less than four letters. Every used has to contain the middle, bold letter. The goal is to also find the nine letter word(s). No plural nouns, capital letters, slang, or foreign language words (unless accepted in the Oxford English dictionary). This month's word: 49 words excellent, 48 words good, 30 words fair. Note: Words ending in 's' like 'jays' have been allowed. The correct solution is on p14.

Word Puzzle compiled by Bev Mortimer

C	O	D
N	T	M
R	M	E

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