



Bureau of Infectious Diseases and
Laboratory Sciences

LOCAL HEALTH
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

SUMMER 2026



Local Health Internship Program

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (DPH) Division of Epidemiology is seeking undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students to intern in local and state health departments during the summer of 2026.

The selected students will work on various projects within local and state health departments that may include environmental health, communicable disease case investigation, needs assessment, bioterrorism and emergency preparedness, health education, data entry/analysis, health policy, food safety, substance use prevention, and other duties as determined by the local health department in collaboration with the student.

Students should be able to work independently and have basic computer skills. Clinical experience and/or prior work experience is a plus but is not required. Applicants must be able to communicate effectively in English. Applicants must have reliable transportation to the posting(s) they apply to (some positions may not be as accessible via public transit) and live within 40 miles of said posting(s).

The student will be required to complete CORI paperwork, which will involve travel to Boston, and to attend both an orientation program and the closing session. On the closing day, each student will be required to provide a poster presentation for fellow interns, local public health agents and DPH representatives summarizing their experience.

Participating interns are also required to submit a 350-word abstract on a project from their summer activities. Upon completion of this internship, each student will have an excellent understanding of the various roles of local health departments in Massachusetts and will have obtained hands-on experience in the practice of public health.

Students must commit to a minimum of 160 hours during the summer (May-August). Students may work more hours as required for school practicums pending prior agreement with their internship supervisor. Graduate students will be paid \$25 an hour for up to 160 hours of work. Undergraduate students will be paid \$20 an hour for up to 160 hours of work.

Estimated number of hours required per week: 15-20 (Hours are flexible in most communities.)

 **Steps to Apply**

1. Sign into your Google Account (required for applications).
2. Review the 45 projects listed in this document.
3. Complete [one primary application](#) (requires you to upload your resume/cv, letter of recommendation, and unofficial transcript).
4. Fill out site-specific secondary application(s) (up to 3). Links are located below (note: you must live within 40 miles of your selected site).
5. A member of the Local Health Internship Team will notify you of your application status by May 1st, 2026.

Applications will be open until **March 15th, 2026**. Students may apply to a maximum of **three placements**.

The opportunities are:

1. [Town of Amherst*](#)
2. [Arlington Health Department*](#)
3. [Bedford Health and Human Services Department*](#)
4. [Belmont Health Department*](#)
5. [Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Community Health Collaborative \(BCHC\) Community Health Needs Assessment & Improvement Planning Team](#)
6. [Boston Public Health Commission, Education and Community Engagement Division](#)
7. [Boston Public Health Commission, Infectious Disease Bureau](#)
8. [Braintree Health Department*](#)
9. [Bristol Norfolk Public Health Partners](#)
10. [Visiting Nurse Association of Cape Cod](#)
11. [Central MA Regional Health Department](#)
12. [Chicopee Public Schools Food Service Department*](#)
13. [DPH, Division of Epidemiology Influenza Team](#)
14. [DPH, Division of Epidemiology Zoonotic Program](#)
15. [DPH, Division of Food Protection Foodborne Illness Team](#)
16. [DPH, Division of Quality Improvement](#)
17. [DPH, Immunization Division Data Assessment Unit](#)
18. [Duke's County/Inter-Island Public Health Collaborative*](#)
19. [Town of Foxborough*](#)
20. [Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative](#)
21. [Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health/Town of Northborough](#)
22. [Hopkinton Health Department](#)
23. [Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative](#)
24. [City of Lynn*](#)
25. [Mansfield Health Department](#)
26. [Medfield Health Department](#)

27. [Merrimack Valley Public Health Alliance](#)
28. [MetroWest Shared Public Health Service](#)
29. [Mill Towns Public Health](#)
30. [Nashoba Opioid Abatement Collaborative](#)
31. [New Bedford Health Department*](#)
32. [City of Newton](#)
33. [North Shore Public Health Collaborative](#)
34. [Town of Orleans](#)
35. [Town of Rockport Health Department*](#)
36. [Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative](#)
37. [Southern Plymouth County Public Health Excellence Collaborative](#)
38. [MA State Public Health Laboratory \(SPHL\), Laboratory Information Management Systems Division and Quality Assurance Division](#)
39. [SPHL, Sequencing, Bioinformatics & Capacity Expansion Division](#)
40. [Town of Tewksbury Health Department](#)
41. [UMass Marieb College of Nursing Local Public Health Nurse Consultant Program](#)
42. [Town of Walpole](#)
43. [Town of Webster Health Department](#)
44. [City of Worcester Division of Public Health: Project 1](#)
45. [City of Worcester Division of Public Health: Project 2](#)

Note: *in-person only; if no asterisk, placement is hybrid.

Town of Amherst

Project Option 1: Valley Vax Educational Campaign

Background

The Town of Amherst, located in the beautiful Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts, is a diverse, inclusive community, rich with educational and cultural opportunities.

Host to Amherst College, Hampshire College, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the Town enjoys a tradition of high quality, transparent and professional government services and active community engagement.

The Town of Amherst Public Health Department is a small team of dedicated individuals who are committed to putting the “public” in public health. Our department maintains an open-door policy and encourages community members to drop in at any time to ask questions or be referred to resources. We solicit input from the community whenever possible and use an equity lens in all aspects of our work. We greatly value the involvement of interns and young people in our organization and place a priority on lifelong learning and professional development.

Methods

We propose two main project areas for a summer intern. The intern could focus entirely on one of these projects or divide time between both. There would also be opportunities for the intern to become acquainted with other aspects of the Health Department’s work during their internship.

Over the last year, the Amherst Public Health Department worked with a group of regional stakeholders to create a website that would serve as a trusted local source of accurate, evidence-based information about vaccines. The campaign was developed in response to concerns raised by local health care providers and community members about conflicting and confusing information about vaccines that is currently circulating in the country.

Intern Tasks/Responsibilities

- Assist with website maintenance and updates; research breaking vaccine-related news for posting; answer questions submitted through the website in consultation with the Public Health Director and Public Health Nurse.
- Develop educational materials, flyers and social media posts; participate in community outreach events/health fairs.
- Assist with the planning and implementation of community forums, listening sessions, surveys and other efforts to gather community input about Valley Vax.
- Conduct outreach to populations less likely to engage with the public health department (lower income folks; historically marginalized groups) at housing complexes, local organizations etc. to promote Valley Vax and seek input about its responsiveness to Amherst’s diverse communities
- Reach out to health departments, health care systems, schools and other relevant stakeholder to solicit their participation in Valley Vax.
- Work with other Public Health Department staff to collect video testimonials from community members for posting on the website
- Participate in meetings of the stakeholder group; take notes; share findings.

Expected Outcomes

- Portfolio of flyers, educational materials and innovative social media posts
- Increase in number of professional partners involved in ValleyVax, featured on the website etc.
- Increased awareness in the community about ValleyVax; at least three community member stories (videos) featured on the website
- Intern will gain experience with quantitative and qualitative evaluation methods and experience working with diverse populations to create a culturally-responsive educational campaign
- Intern will be expected to produce a final report (in whatever format they choose) highlighting achievements and lessons learned

Project Option 2: Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning

Background

The Amherst Public Health Department is part of the Hampshire Public Health Preparedness Coalition (HPHPC) which serves as the emergency planning body for public health emergencies in the region. In the last year, the coalition has undergone some changes and is in the process of re-launching. Amherst is taking the lead during this transition period and would greatly benefit from an intern's assistance during this period of restructuring. The Coalition was re-launched in January and is beginning to reform. We expect a good foundation for a better functioning coalition will be laid before the intern starts so that the work they will assist with during the summer months will go a long way towards setting the Coalition on a solid path to success.

Methods

Intern Tasks/Responsibilities

- Attend monthly HPHPC meetings; assist with agenda development and minute-taking
- Participate in discussions about refinements to the principles of operation and governance structure for the HPHPC.
- Assist with the development and implementation of a scope of work and budget for the HPHPC
- Work with the Public Health Director and other members of the HPHPC to organize and execute elements of the scope of work, such as discussion-based emergency preparedness activities, emergency response frameworks etc.
- Assist the Public Health Director and other executive members of the HPHPC with monitoring the budget, tracking spending and providing reports to the HPHPC at large.

Expected Outcomes

- Reinvigorated HPHPC with consensus-based governance structure, clear scope of work, mutually agreed upon budget and progress being made towards deliverables
- Intern will gain experience with coalition building and the essential elements of emergency preparedness
- Intern will also have the opportunity to practice program planning skills and learn some elements of budget development and oversight.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate or MPH student with some health related background (e.g., at least one graduate level semester of public health courses) and knowledge in Excel preferred.

*This internship is an **in-person** position.*

Primary location: 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst MA 01002

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Arlington Health Department
Food Safety Program Internship

Background

The Arlington Health Department is mandated through federal, state, and local law to protect and promote the health and safety of the community. The Health Department falls within Arlington's Health and Human Services, whose mission is to protect the health of the public and assist residents with accessing basic human needs. The Health Department is seeking an intern to assist with updating the Department's food safety program and conducting environmental health inspections.

The Arlington Health Department is applying to the NEHA-FDA Retail Flexible Funding Model (RFFM) Grant Program and will need assistance with a self-assessment of Arlington's current food safety program and the creation of a Comprehensive Strategic Improvement Plan (CSIP). The self-assessment will determine how the Department's current food safety program achieves the standards outlined in the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness risk factors in food establishments. The CSIP will outline how the Department will work to conform with these standards. The intern will assist with a self-assessment, research food safety program best practices, and create educational materials to prevent common foodborne illness risk factors for food establishment operators, regardless of whether the Department is awarded a NEHA-FDA RFFM grant. The intern will only assist with the creation of a CSIP if the Department is awarded a grant.

Due to staffing constraints, the Arlington Health Department has not participated in the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program since before COVID-19. An intern would enable the Department to resume this important work to emphasize food safety and prevent foodborne illness outbreaks in the community.

The intern will also help respond to seasonal influxes of environmental health concerns often seen in the summer including nuisance inspections, low risk food inspections, and recreational camps for children inspections.

Methods

- Assess the Department's current food safety program.
 - Review procedures and documents for routine and complaint-based inspectional program.
 - Compare current practices with the standards outlined in the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program.
- Assist with the creation of a Comprehensive Strategic Improvement Plan to align the Department's food safety program with Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory standards (if the Department is awarded the RFFM Grant).
- Create educational materials or training to address common foodborne illness risk factors identified in food establishments.
- Develop educational handouts and promotional materials about initiatives related to food safety and environmental health.
- Conduct environmental health inspections including nuisance inspections, low-risk food inspections, and recreational camps for children inspections.

- Training opportunities will be provided to ensure the intern is comfortable and knowledgeable about these inspections.
- Shadowing opportunities will be provided with Health Department and Health and Human Services staff to broaden experiences.

Expected Outcomes

- A report outlining self-assessment findings of the Department's food safety program compared to the standards outlined in the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program presented to the Department and relevant town officials.
- A comprehensive strategic improvement plan outline (if the Department is awarded the RFFM Grant).
- Educational and training materials (flyers, webpages, social media posts, etc.) about food safety and timely environmental health topics.
- Completion of environmental health inspections and creation of related inspection reports.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate or MPH student preferred.

*This internship is an **in-person** position.*

Primary location: 27 Maple Street, Arlington, MA 02474

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Bedford Health and Human Services Department

Summer Health Internship focusing on Public Health Education, Awareness and Outreach

Background

The Bedford HHS Department is comprised of the Bedford Health, Youth and Family Services, Council on Aging and Recreation Departments. The Town run Food Bank is run through YFS. The structure of HHS allows for varied involvement in projects that consider the intersection of public health outreach, recreational and senior programming, inspectional services, social services and community outreach to generate the most impactful educational impact and outreach. We envision a summer intern to engage with our HHS professionals in providing inspectional support, development of educational programming and outreach materials, presenting on public health topics to the community and offering hands on services through our Food Bank.

Methods

The student may participate in the following tasks:

- Development of educational materials and outreach
 - Building of a robust tick prevention page on our website with links to all aspects of tick bite prevention. Consult with Conservation and Trails Committee members to ascertain areas of known and/or elevated tick environments. Development of warning signage, inclusive of QR codes to educational tick bite prevention or after care information, to be placed prominently in and around tick environments.
 - Work to develop biweekly gun violence prevention messaging for web and social media and distribution through a developed network of community partners
- In-person Public Education
 - Prepare and provide brief interventional talks to be given at camps, summer recreation programs, trails committee meetings, Council on Aging, the town swimming area and other summer events/venues in town.
- Assist Assistant Health Director with Inspections
 - Receive training on how to conduct a pool inspection and assist with monthly pool inspections of our 8 semi-public swimming pool locations.
 - Receive training on how to conduct a nuisance inspection and assist with nuisance inspections.
- Address Food Insecurity and Consider Special Needs of Vulnerable Populations
 - Assist with the weekly Food Bank distribution and on a biweekly basis develop and/or generate public health related outreach for distribution to this vulnerable population.

Expected Outcomes

- Contribute to a library of electronic and print media for summer and future use in public education
- Increased community reach regarding the HHS department's programs, materials and assistive resources.

Required/preferred qualifications: Knowledge in Excel; communications experience, development of outreach materials experience preferred.

*This internship is an **in-person** position.*

Primary location: 12 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730

**Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements.
Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.**

Belmont Health Department
Opioid Abatement Support or Retail Food Program Improvement

Background

Opioid Abatement: Belmont has opioid abatement funding available to be utilized for substance use prevention and response work, and has a need for project development to further strengthen Belmont's substance use and prevention program. Belmont is hopeful that an interested intern will be able to analyze the existing substance use and prevention efforts and materials in Belmont, the results of the needs assessment completed in 2025, and craft an educational campaign for the community.

Retail Food: For the past four years, the Belmont Health Department has been a part of the FDA Retail Food Program Standards grant program, which provides funding to help jurisdictions improve their food protection programs to align and confirm with the FDA's 9 standards. Standard 9 involves a risk factor study, and this year we have requested funding to continue work on such a study. There are two methodologies to choose from, and Belmont is prepared to conduct a Level 1 Risk Factor Study. A Level 1 Risk Factor Study uses the "File Study" approach which uses routine inspection data from inspections that have already been completed, to retroactively assess the occurrence of risk factors. This risk factor study will help the Department to identify patterns, both positive and negative. At its current capacity, the Department does not have the capacity to add this study to the workload of Department staff. The groundwork has been laid for this work during last year's grant cycle, and now Belmont is hoping to carry out and submit a Risk Factor Study.

Methods

Opioid Abatement

- Read through and analyze existing materials relating to opioid abatement funds and projects in Belmont, to gain an understanding of the current status of this work
- Select an area of interest/need that can be expanded into a campaign for Belmont
- Create the campaign in a format/medium that the intern selects
- Assist the Health Department in creating a strategy to promote the campaign throughout the community
- The Health Department is fairly flexible on this campaign option, and would allow the intern to shape this project based on their interests, skills, and experiences

Retail Food

- Go over and familiarize with the FDA Retail Food Risk Factor Study Toolkit
- Utilize list of current establishments and create a categorized list where each establishment is
- separated by type (Healthcare, Schools, Restaurants, Retail Food) – this is to ensure all categories are included in the file study sampling process
- Utilizing one of the methods detailed in the toolkit, determine how many files must be reviewed, and select the sampling to be reviewed
- Standard 9 requires that we look at the occurrence of risk factors for our facility categories; however, intern can do additional analysis and drill down into individual data items or violations depending on your study design
- After analysis, write a report covering the outcomes and conclusions of the study - outline findings and identify the risk factors in need of priority attention

Expected Outcomes

Opioid Abatement

- Brief analysis on current status of opioid abatement efforts in Belmont
- Proposal documentation with 2-3 different campaign ideas
- Educational Campaign (in a format of the intern's choosing) relating to opioid abatement, shared with the community
- Brief debrief discussing the experience of promoting the campaign, and any response that has come in to the Health Department since the campaign began

Retail Food

- Categorized list of establishments in the four categories listed under methods
- Information on the selected sampling type and analysis for number of samples needed
- List of sampled files
- Analysis detailing findings of this file study, with outcomes and conclusions

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate students or MPH students preferred.

*This internship is an **in-person** position.*

Primary location: 19 Moore Street, Belmont, MA 02478

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Community Health Collaborative (BCHC)
Community Health Needs Assessment & Improvement Planning Team
Supporting and Evaluating Collaboration in Boston's Community Health System

Background

The Boston Community Health Collaborative (BCHC) is a citywide, cross-sector partnership convened by the Boston Public Health Commission, the local health department for the City of Boston, to align community health assessment and improvement planning efforts across Boston. In 2025, BCHC completed a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), engaging more than 1,900 residents and many community-based organizations, health systems, city agencies, and resident leaders. Findings from this process informed the development of Boston's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which outlines shared priorities and strategies across four focus areas: Housing; Economic Mobility & Opportunity; Access to Healthy and Affordable Food; and Access to Care.

As the BCHC transitions from planning into implementation, a central goal of the Collaborative is to reduce siloes and strengthening connections across institutions working to support healthier, thriving communities in Boston. To support this work, BCHC seeks additional capacity to help document and assess how partnerships are functioning during early CHIP implementation, and how participation in the Collaborative is influencing coordination within the local public health system.

This internship project will support both CHIP implementation and the development of practical tools to measure partnership impact, while providing the student with hands-on experience in applied public health evaluation and coalition-based work.

Methods

The intern will support CHIP implementation and partnership assessment activities through the following tasks:

- **Partnership Assessment and Impact Measurement**
 1. Support the development of a partnership assessment survey to measure the extent to which BCHC participation is strengthening coordination, reducing siloes, and improving alignment across organizations.
 2. Assist in drafting survey questions related to communication, shared goals, role clarity, data sharing, and perceived value of collaboration.
 3. Support survey administration logistics (e.g., tracking respondents, organizing outreach, summarizing response patterns).
 4. Assist in synthesizing findings to identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improving partnership functioning.
- **Partner Engagement and Implementation Support**
 1. Assist the backbone project team in preparing partner-facing materials related to CHIP implementation, including meeting agendas, summaries, and brief implementation updates.
 2. Help document how partners are engaging with CHIP strategies across priority areas and where coordination is emerging.
- **Implementation Tracking and Applied Learning**

1. Develop simple tracking tools to document partner activities that support CHIP strategies.
2. Participate in BCHC and Boston Public Health Commission meetings related to CHIP implementation, partnership development, and health equity.
3. Receive mentorship from CHNA/CHIP staff and gain exposure to real-world public health practice, partnership development, and applied evaluation.

Expected Outcomes

By the conclusion of the 160-hour summer internship, expected outcomes include:

- A draft partnership assessment survey and supporting documentation that can be used to assess coordination, alignment, and reduction of siloes among BCHC partners.
- A brief summary of survey findings highlighting strengths, challenges, and opportunities to strengthen cross-sector collaboration during CHIP implementation.
- Organized partner engagement and implementation support materials (e.g., meeting summaries, tracking tools) that support ongoing CHIP coordination.
- Increased intern understanding of coalition-based public health implementation, partnership evaluation, and the role of local health departments as conveners and backbone organizations.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02118

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Boston Public Health Commission, Education and Community Engagement Division
Summer 2026 Incident Management & Capacity Building

Background

Summer 2026 represents a prolonged, complex public health situation for the City of Boston, characterized by a large influx of international visitors, multiple daily mass gatherings, sustained pressure on healthcare systems, and increased risk of infectious disease transmission. The Boston Public Health Commission's (BPHC) Infectious Disease Bureau (IDB) plays a critical role in preparing for, monitoring, and responding to infectious disease threats during this approximately 60-day period.

To meet these demands, IDB is implementing a comprehensive Summer 2026 Operations Plan to manage the added responsibility of the FIFA World Cup on top of already existing events like Pride, Sail Boston, and July 4th Celebrations. This Operations Plan is focused on enhanced disease surveillance, health education, healthcare system coordination, and response readiness. While overall response functions are led by experienced emergency preparedness staff in the Office of Public Health Preparedness (OPHP), IDB staff are needed to support planning, data synthesis, outreach preparation, and documentation efforts aligning with our areas of expertise.

This internship project is designed to provide meaningful, applied public health experience while addressing identified capacity gaps within IDB related to preparedness planning, situational awareness, and community-facing education activities in advance of, during, and after the Summer 2026 period.

Methods

The intern will support IDB staff in activities aligned with the IDB Summer 2026 Operations Plan. Tasks assigned will be designed to be achievable within the 160-hour summer internship period and may include the following:

- Incident Management and Event Preparation
 - Assist with refining planning materials related to Summer 2026 preparedness, including FIFA World Cup, Pride, disease screenings, etc.
 - Assist with the logistical, operational, and organizational planning necessary to develop effective internal and external collaboration around Summer 2026 events.
 - Support the development, refinement, and maintenance of planning tools such as task trackers, timelines, and reference documents
 - Assist in research into, and summarization of, high-impact infectious disease scenarios and response initiatives for internal use.
- Health Education and Community Outreach
 - Assist with drafting, reviewing, and organizing health education materials related to infectious disease prevention (e.g., vaccination, respiratory illnesses, gastrointestinal illnesses, STIs/Sexual Health)
 - Assist with development of educational materials specific to potential outbreak scenarios and post-summer response (STIs, mpox, ongoing care, etc.)
 - Support adaptation of materials for a variety of audiences, including City of Boston residents, domestic and international visitors, community partners, bar/restaurant management, etc.

- Assist with reviewing previous outreach strategies around respiratory illness, vaccination, novel and emerging diseases, etc. and developing strategic planning for future campaigns
- Attend outreach events to speak to residents about infectious disease topics and Summer 2026 preparations and considerations.
- Assist with development of trainings and presentations for community engagement that reflect the cultural and linguistic competency of related audiences.
- Coordinate with community partners to establish new, and maintain existing, relationship to support the ongoing prevention and response for seasonal and emerging diseases.
- **Healthcare System Coordination Support**
 - Assist in organizing and maintaining healthcare system preparedness information (e.g., hospital emergency manager contacts, isolation capacity data, negative pressure rooms)
 - Support communication with hospitals, healthcare providers, community health centers, and pharmacies around outbreak identification, infection control, disease prevention, vaccination recommendations, etc.
 - Help document coordination workflows between IDB, hospitals, and emergency preparedness partners.

Expected Outcomes

- **Incident Management and Event Preparedness Contributions**
 - Updated and organized planning materials that support IDB preparedness for Summer 2026 activities, including the FIFA World Cup, Pride, disease screenings, and other large-scale events.
 - Maintained or enhanced internal planning tools (e.g., task trackers, timelines, reference documents) that improve coordination, accountability, and situational awareness.
- **Health Education and Community Outreach Deliverables**
 - Drafted, reviewed, or organized health education materials addressing priority infectious disease topics such as vaccination, respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses, and STIs/sexual health.
 - Assisted development of audience-tailored educational materials reflecting cultural and linguistic competency for residents, visitors, community partners, and business settings.
 - Documented review of past outreach strategies and recommendations to inform future infectious disease education campaigns.
 - Support for Summer 2026 outreach activities that strengthens IDB's visibility, trust, and engagement with Boston communities.
- **Healthcare System Coordination and Documentation Support**
 - Organized and up-to-date healthcare system preparedness reference materials, including hospital emergency contacts and isolation capacity information.
 - Drafted or supported communications with healthcare partners related to outbreak identification, infection control, disease prevention, and vaccination guidance.
 - Clear documentation of coordination workflows between IDB, healthcare providers, and emergency preparedness partners to support efficient response during periods of increased demand.

- **Workforce Development and Applied Learning Outcomes**
 - An intern with practical experience in infectious disease preparedness, community engagement, and healthcare system coordination during a high-impact operational period.
 - Increased understanding of how local public health agencies plan for, communicate during, and respond to infectious disease risks associated with mass gatherings and seasonal demands.

These outcomes will directly strengthen IDB's operational readiness for Summer 2026 while providing the intern with meaningful, hands-on public health experience aligned with workforce development goals.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate students, MPH students, undergraduate students with some health background (e.g., at least one semester of public health courses) and bilingual skills preferred.

This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.

Primary location: 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02118

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Boston Public Health Commission, Infectious Disease Bureau
Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response

Background

Boston, MA will host a number of international events during the summer of 2026, including the FIFA World Cup, Boston Sails, Boston Pride, and Independence Day celebrations. The increase in visitors both nationally and internally has created an increased need for enhanced preparedness and monitoring of infectious disease threats, including but not limited to Meales, respiratory illness (influenza, Covid-19, RSV), Polio, HPAI, Norovirus, Mpox, Pertussis, TB, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Hemorrhagic fever, West Nile, Meningococcal disease, Rotavirus, Legionellosis, Campylobacteriosis, Streptococcus, and Lyme Disease.

Strengthened by the Boston Public Health Commission's (BPHC's) over two hundred years of leadership in public health, BPHC's Infectious Disease Bureau (IDB) strives to prevent infectious diseases, reduce morbidity and mortality associated with these diseases, and create healthier lives for the residents of Boston. The IDB is responsible for disease surveillance; investigation of cases, clusters, and outbreaks in Boston; funding a continuum of HIV related education and care through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act; and community and provider education related to communicable diseases.

The Infectious Disease Bureau and Center for Public Health Science and Innovation seeks an Intern with experience in 2 or more of the following disease surveillance systems, MAVEN, MIIS, and NSSP, to enhance the Infectious Disease Bureau's readiness and monitor emerging infectious disease threats. The Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Intern will support surveillance, outbreak investigation, and data analysis, with the goal of strengthening the Boston Public Health Commission's infrastructure against pandemics. Responsibilities include developing technical reports, conducting literature reviews, and creating data visualizations to support information sharing across multiple sectors including state and local government, and informing public health interventions. This role requires strong analytical skills, experience with R, and enrollment in a PhD program in epidemiology.

Methods

- **Epidemiological Analysis:** Analyze, clean, and organize surveillance data, using statistical software (R) to monitor disease trends and identify risks. Interpret findings and brief leadership about key findings and emerging priorities.
- **Outbreak Investigation Support:** Assist in investigations of zoonotic, vector-borne, vaccine-preventable and emerging infectious diseases.
- **Technical Writing & Reporting:** Develop reports for the Infectious Disease Bureau's Medical Director, BPHC's Executive Office, City officials and State partners.
- **Preparedness Planning:** Support the creation of training materials, "mystery patient" drills, and emergency management protocols for the IDB.
- **Collaboration:** Coordinate with City partners, state health officials, or local healthcare and community partners.

Expected Outcomes

- Applied epidemiology analytic methods across core surveillance data sets (MAVEN, NSSP, Wastewater, MIIS, etc.)

- Public health preparedness and response processes, including development of systems and protocols to increase health department readiness and response to emerging outbreaks, including drafting situational reports and briefings.
- Coordinate with City partners, state health officials, or local healthcare and community partners.
- Monitoring disease trends and identifying risks and collating key findings and emerging priorities for priority stakeholders.

Required/preferred qualifications: Student currently pursuing a PhD in Epidemiology or a related public health field; proficiency in data analysis software (R) and strong epidemiological knowledge; excellent written and verbal communication skills for reporting and stakeholder engagement.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02118

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Braintree Health Department – Braintree Community Partnership
Braintree Community Health Assessment Internship

Background

The Braintree Community Partnership is a program of the Braintree Health Department with a goal to help create a substance-free, supportive environment for every young person in Braintree. As an integral part of the Health Department and the Braintree community, we collaborate with various stakeholders and community leaders to accomplish our goals in creating a healthy Braintree. The Partnership's success is built on sustained investments that:

- Expand evidence-based, data-driven prevention strategies across all ages
- Amplify youth leadership and peer-driven outreach
- Respond to emerging substance use and mental health crises
- Improve and document our results

Methods

The student may participate in the following tasks:

- Develop and Implement a Community Survey
 - Research and compile surveys and assessment tools other communities have used for collecting primary quantitative data from the community.
 - Develop a survey questionnaire from research to gather information on health-related needs from Braintree community members and residents.
 - Develop a communication plan for the distribution of the community survey.
 - Distribute community survey questionnaire to collect data.
- Collect Qualitative Data
 - Conduct and utilize focus groups and key informant interviews to collect information to complement data related to specific themes and needs.
 - Compile and analyze data to extract insights from the focus groups and key informant interviews.
 - Document findings and create a summary report on findings related to qualitative data.
- Conduct a Resource Assessment
 - Compile a list of health resources available in Braintree and neighboring communities.
 - Create a directory of health resources through a resource guide.
- Participate in Braintree Community Partnership Meetings
 - Attend monthly Partnership meetings to learn how community participation is essential in substance use prevention
 - Present at one Partnership meetings about role and work as intern at the end of their internship program

Expected Outcomes

- A comprehensive report detailing the findings of the qualitative data, including insights into shared health-related needs in the community.
- A community health survey collecting information about health needs, gaps, and concerns in Braintree.
- A comprehensive health resource directory for residents to utilize
- Participation in the Braintree Community Partnership's monthly meetings.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate students, MPH students, undergraduate students with some health background (e.g., at least one semester of public health courses) and data-related skills (e.g., biostatistics, SAS, R) preferred.

This internship is an **in-person** position.

Primary location: 1 John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive, Braintree, MA 02184

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Bristol Norfolk Public Health Partners
Shared Services Arrangement (SSA) Multi-faceted Project

Background

The Bristol Norfolk Public Health Partners (BNPHP) includes the Towns of Easton, Foxborough, Mansfield, Norton, Plainville and Sharon. Staff within the BNPHP includes a Regional Epidemiologist/Shared Services Coordinator, a Public Health Nurse and a Public Health Inspector. All three staff members have access to the six towns in the region. Having this variety of staff available for mentorship will allow the intern to delve into many different aspects of public health. The intern would be exposed to health inspections, public health education initiatives, public health nursing activities and epidemiology/infectious disease surveillance and case follow-up.

Methods

The following project ideas are available for an intern to work on:

- As an SSA, we have worked with a group of interns last year that were hosted by Foxborough, Mansfield and Sharon; the interns worked collaboratively to develop a Maternal, Child and Family Resource Guide that consisted of combined resources within each of the six towns. Moving forward we are interested in providing a similar Resource Guide for our Seniors. The elderly resource guide would offer information on crucial support such as health, food, housing, and finance, connecting seniors to government programs (Medicare, HUD), local services, providing caregiver support and offering safety/fraud prevention advice, ultimately helping older adults live more independently and with dignity. This guide would provide a repository for services available within the six towns.
- Analyze tobacco-related enforcement data across six towns to assess the number and types of violations, identify geographic patterns, and inform evidence-based interventions to reduce noncompliance and protect youth and community health.
- Develop culturally appropriate public health education materials on foodborne and/or tick-borne disease prevention, including community-focused tri-fold flyers and a reusable tri-fold display board for outreach at health and community events.

Expected Outcomes

- Students will complete a final project based on the topic(s) selected during the internship, resulting in a tangible deliverable—such as a resource guide, educational materials, and/or a written report—that can be used by the host organization and community partners.
- Students may also have the opportunity to present their completed project to the BNPHP Advisory Board, gaining experience in professional communication and public health practice.

Required/preferred qualifications: MPH students, undergraduate students with some health background (e.g., at least one semester of public health courses) and knowledge in Excel preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 500 East Street, Mansfield, MA 02048

Visiting Nurse Association of Cape Cod

A Community-Based Evaluation of Nordic Walking as a Strategy for Healthy Aging

Background

Cape Cod has a disproportionately large and growing older adult population, making the promotion of healthy aging a critical public health priority. Physical activity programs that support mobility, balance, cardiovascular health, and social connection are essential for preventing chronic disease, reducing the risk of falls, and maintaining independence among older adults. Nordic walking, a form of physical activity that incorporates walking poles to engage both upper and lower body muscle groups, has shown promise as an accessible, low impact intervention for older populations.

The VNA of Cape Cod currently offers Nordic walking programs, led locally by a physical therapist. While this program is offered to our contracted towns on Cape Cod, there is limited internal capacity to systematically review the existing research and collect and analyze participant feedback. This project is designed to address the gap in evaluation and data-informed program development by leveraging the skills of a public health intern working collaboratively with our physical therapist and epidemiologist. The results will directly support the development of a conference poster that will be presented in November, while also strengthening our organization's ability to communicate the public health impact of community-based physical activity programs.

Methods

The intern will participate in the following tasks under the supervision of the physical therapist and epidemiologist:

- Literature review on Nordic walking and older adult health.
 - Conduct a targeted review of peer-reviewed literature examining Nordic walking and related physical activity interventions for older adults.
 - Summarize evidence on outcomes, such as balance, strength, fall prevention, mental well-being, and social engagement.
 - Identify best practices and key findings relevant to community-based program implementation.
- Qualitative data collection from Nordic walking program participants.
 - Assist in the development of surveys or semi-structured interview questions to explore perceived benefits, challenges, and program impacts on participants.
 - Document and analyze qualitative data to identify key themes and illustrative participant quotes.
 - Collaborate with the epidemiologist to synthesize findings for use in evaluation and dissemination efforts.
- Support for conference poster development.
 - Organize literature review findings and qualitative results into standard poster sections (background, methods, results, conclusions).
 - Assist in translating public health findings into clear messaging for conference audiences.
- Participation in program and public health team activities.
- Attend regular meetings with the physical therapist and epidemiologist.

- Gain exposure to interdisciplinary collaboration and applied public health practices.

Expected Outcomes

- A concise literature review summarizing the benefits of Nordic walking for older adults, suitable for internal use and inclusion in a conference poster.
- A thematic summary of participant feedback, including de-identified quotes illustrating perceived physical, mental, and social benefits.
- Text, tables, and synthesized findings to support the physical therapist's conference poster highlighting the community health benefits of Nordic walking programs.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate students, MPH students, undergraduate students with some health background (e.g., at least one semester of public health courses) and knowledge in Excel preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 434 Route 134, Suite G-1 South Dennis, MA 02660

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Central MA Regional Health Department

Community Health Profiles and Modified Community Health Improvement Plan

Background

Until July 1, 2025, the Towns of Grafton, West Boylston and Shrewsbury participated in the Central MA Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA) with the City of Worcester serving as the host community. During this partnership, the CMRPHA worked with the Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester to conduct routine [Community Health Assessments](#) (CHA) and develop a [Community Health Improvement Plan](#) (CHIP). These documents guide public health programming priorities in participating communities.

In July 1, 2025, the Towns of Grafton, West Boylston and Shrewsbury left to CMRPHA to form the Central MA Regional Health Department (CMRHD). Since forming, the CMRHD has evaluated their understanding of local health priorities, and found that existing reports created through the CMRPHA were insufficient to create a clear picture of the health priorities and needs of these smaller communities.

As the CMRHD moves forward in developing a strategic direction for future programming and investment, we are looking for an intern to develop Community Health Profiles and create a modified Community Health Improvement Plan that accurately reflects the local needs of our new collaborative.

Methods

- Research existing Community Health Assessments
- Collaborate with department staff and other stakeholders to compile existing data
- Identify gaps in available data and conduct activities, including survey development, to fill in the gaps
- Analyze data to inform community health profiles
- Work with department staff to develop a modified community health improvement plan informed by local community health profiles
- Help communicate and disseminate the information

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the program, the intern will gain hand-on experience in data collection, interpretation and communication. They will develop a strong understanding of available data sources and working with community stakeholders. Additionally, they will learn how to transition data into the development of an effective improvement plan.

This placement offers flexibility for the intern to explore all aspects of local health department activities by shadowing inspectors, joining community outreach and education events and attending department meetings. In partnership with their preceptor, the intern will be able to explore individual interests that align with department goals and priorities.

Preferred Qualifications: MPH candidate with experience in data collection and analysis preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary Location: 100 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

The intern may be asked to travel to Grafton and West Boylston on occasion.

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Chicopee Public Schools Food Service Department
Expanding Free Summer Meal Access to City of Chicopee Youth

Background

Chicopee FRESH is Food Service Department for Chicopee Public Schools. During the summer, we sponsor a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) where we serve free, congregate breakfast and lunch to anyone under 18 at 20 locations throughout the city. During our 8-week program, we serve over 38,000 meals. Our school kitchens prepare meals on site, and we have a food truck that drives to 7 sites including libraries and city parks. To encourage congregate eating at our school sites and build community connections, we offer an activities program run by 12 Chicopee high school students where we blow giant bubbles, make windchimes, play bingo, and more. Currently, our Farm to School Coordinator manages this program. Many high school interns lack reliable transportation, and they need support transporting activities materials between sites, providing coverage for last minute cancellations, and pivoting in the event it's too hot to hold activities at outdoor sites.

This project aims to use survey data and transportation studies to understand opportunities for serving more summer meals. Having an undergraduate or graduate student intern has been very successful for data collection and logistics support. We hosted an intern with No Kid Hungry in 2023 and summer UMASS dietetic students in 2022 and 2023.

Methods

- Conduct Outreach to Participating Families
 - Survey parents and guardians of youth under 18 years old at summer meal sites across Chicopee to identify areas of opportunity for expanding access to our Summer Food Service Program.
- Research Transportation Barriers to Program Access
 - Research transportation options in Chicopee and identify locations that are underserved by our current program offerings
- Participate in Citywide Summer Program Administration
 - Attend check-in meetings with our program's high school interns
 - Aid in marketing our program throughout the summer
 - Job shadowing opportunities with various city employees in areas such as city planning, health department, etc.

Expected Outcomes

- A comprehensive report detailing the results of the parent/guardian survey.
- Recommendations for additional meals sites our program should consider to meet residents with transportation needs.
- Logistics assistance with our 8-week activities series for our summer meals program (runs 6/22/26 to 8/14/26): transporting materials to summer meals sites, communicating with high school activities leaders, relaying any concerns from food service staff or families.

*This internship is an **in-person** position.*

Primary location: 134 Dulong Circle, Chicopee, MA 01022

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

DPH, Division of Epidemiology Influenza Team

Retrospective Analyses of Respiratory Illness Clusters Over the Past 5 Years

Background

Respiratory clusters have long been reportable to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health from Long Term Care (LTC) facilities as well as Assisted Living Facilities (ALF). These reports are part of the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN), the Commonwealth's web-based disease surveillance and case management system. A recent change for the 2025-26 respiratory season was the retirement of the COVID-19 cluster reporting form that was used exclusively for COVID from the early days in the pandemic. Now, all respiratory clusters are reported using the same online form. Data analyses of the hundreds of clusters reported have been limited and interest in a more thorough analyses is overdue. Review of these respiratory illness clusters and the multiple variables that are collected will allow us to see over time, the completeness of certain variables and the need to improve the current form, for future respiratory seasons.

Methods

The student may participate in the following tasks:

- Data cleaning and analysis
- Pull cluster reports from the past 5 years using MAVEN and SAS to analyze several key variables.
- Determine completion rates for variables, average number of cases reported in clusters, number of clusters meeting the criteria, identify duplicates and remove them - particularly COVID-19 clusters that have received little review and likely contain multiple duplicates.
- Review around 10-15 Respiratory Dashboards from other states and examine the way they include cluster data on their dashboards to potentially add this component to our own dashboard
- Review around 10-15 State public health websites to see how they define respiratory clusters (# of cases, date range etc.)
- Provide the number of clusters reported yearly and by pathogen type and identify any key changes in reporting.
- Participation in Division of Epidemiology Meetings:
- Invite the intern to attend various staff meetings, including the Emerging Infections Huddle, Division of Epidemiology, and Influenza Team meetings.
- Provide opportunities for the intern to observe discussions, contribute insights, and gain exposure to the inner workings of public health practice.
- Shadow Epidemiologists

Expected Outcomes

This thorough review will provide a more comprehensive understanding of our cluster data and will assist in improving/updating our cluster reporting form with higher quality data.

Required/preferred qualifications: MPH or graduate students with data-related skills (e.g., biostatistics, SAS, R) and knowledge in Excel preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required, though will largely be remote.*

Primary location: 305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

DPH, Division of Epidemiology Zoonotic Program
Human Tick-borne Disease Case Investigation and Classification

Background

Incomplete human tick-borne disease case investigation and classification is a significant gap within the MDPH vector-borne disease program. Due to resource barriers and capacity many Local Boards of Health (LBOH) have been unable to conduct sustained follow-up on positive tick-borne disease laboratory reports and gather adequate clinical information to classify cases. MDPH has made significant strides to address case completeness, with routine LBOH trainings, integrated wizards in the highest priority tick-borne diseases within the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiologic Network (MAVEN), the Commonwealth's web-based disease surveillance and case management system. MDPH proposes a LBOH engagement program while targeting high priority Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis (HGA) and Babesiosis to enhance case completeness.

Alpha-gal syndrome is an emerging tick-borne allergic response spread by the lone star tick. The burden and distribution of alpha-gal syndrome in MA is not well understood. MDPH and LBOH will review medical records and collect clinical and risk history data to estimate local impact and propose vector prevention messaging.

Methods

The student(s) may participate in the following tasks:

- Conduct Tick-borne Disease Investigations:
 - Pull reports from MAVEN to compile incomplete cases of HGA and babesiosis that require follow-up.
 - Contact providers and infection preventionists to gather clinical and risk/exposure information on incomplete cases.
 - Classify cases using surveillance case definitions.
 - Complete Case Report Forms for HGA and babesiosis.
- Conduct Alpha Gal Syndrome Case Burden Review
 - Review Alpha-gal laboratory reports
 - Contact providers, patients, and infection preventionists to gather clinical and risk/exposure information
- Participation in Division of Epidemiology Meetings:
 - Invite the intern to attend various staff meetings, including the Emerging Infections Huddle, Division of Epidemiology, and Zoonotic Team meetings.
 - Provide opportunities for the intern to observe discussions, contribute insights, and gain exposure to the inner workings of public health practice.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased case completeness for high burden tick-borne diseases resulting in a higher number of correctly classified cases.
- Awareness of AGS case volume and distribution, resulting in targeted prevention planning.

Required/preferred qualifications: MPH or graduate students with data-related skills (e.g., biostatistics, SAS, R) and knowledge in Excel preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required, though will largely be remote.*

Primary location: 305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

DPH, Division of Food Protection Foodborne Illness Team

Evaluating the Quality of Data Received through Report My Meal, Massachusetts' Online Foodborne Illness Complaint Reporting System

Background

In December 2025, DPH launched a new online system, called Report My Meal, allowing members of the public to report suspected foodborne illnesses to Massachusetts public health officials. DPH reviews every complaint and advises whether environmental follow-up is recommended by LBOHs for reported exposures, which requires LBOH staffing and resources. Prior to its launch, food exposures were primarily collected through phone conversations which allowed public health staff to ensure the complainant considered all possible exposures that could have caused foodborne illness. In the absence of a phone interview, there can be uncertainty around whether a complainant submitting their report online has fully reviewed and reported all potential food exposures. People often associate their illness with the last food or meal that they consumed which is called “last meal bias”. While some foodborne illnesses develop quickly after consuming contaminated food items (as short as 30 minutes), there are many foodborne illnesses that can take up to 72 hours or longer to develop.

This project will consist of evaluating the completeness and accuracy of food exposures received via Report My Meal. The intern will work with DPH subject matter experts (SMEs) to outline metrics to evaluate Report My Meal, such as the number of food exposures included in their initial online report, the number of additional exposures identified upon phone interview, and whether the individual read online instructions prior to beginning their report. After being trained in conducting foodborne illness interviews, the intern will be responsible for conducting phone interviews with individuals reporting foodborne illness via Report My Meal and completing outlined metrics for each interview. In conjunction with the Division of Food Protection (DFP), the intern will evaluate how the additional information collected during phone interview impacted or altered recommended public health follow up. Findings will help DPH understand the accuracy of self-reported foodborne illness to Report My Meal and inform procedures for responding to Report My Meal entries moving forward.

Methods

The student may participate in the following activities:

- Become familiar with how foodborne illnesses are reported in Massachusetts by reviewing documentation online and participating in internal trainings and meetings.
 - Student will become trained in how to conduct foodborne illness interviews.
- Evaluate the completeness and accuracy of Report My Meal variables by developing a metric in a program such as Excel.
- Conduct follow-up phone interviews with Report My Meal complainants and evaluate how additional information collected impacted or altered recommended public health follow up.
- Participate in Division of Food Protection and/or Division of Epidemiology meetings and shadow foodborne illness work.
 - Meetings may include impromptu meetings discussing foodborne illness outbreaks, virtual or in-person division-wide meetings, and Epidemiology Foodborne-Waterborne team meetings, including Working Group on Foodborne Illness and Control (WGFIC) meetings.

Expected Outcomes

- A report summarizing:
 - The completeness of Report My Meal entries upon initial receipt compared to completeness post-phone interview.
 - How information collected during phone interview impacted recommended public health follow up.
 - The utilization of Report My Meal by Massachusetts Local Boards of Health officials.
- Formal recommendations to the Divisions of Food Protection and Epidemiology on how DPH may improve or further optimize Report My Meal based on the observations made and data collected.

References

- [Foodborne illness information for the public](#)
- [Report My Meal](#)

Attendance at team meetings would include:

Month	Meetings	Shadowing
Week 1	Team Meeting (Project) – 1 hr WGFIG – 1 hr	Environmental Analyst shadowing – 1 day (7.5 hours)
Week 2	Cluster Meeting – 1 hr	Environmental Analyst shadowing – 1 day (7.5 hours)
Week 3	Team Meeting (Training) – 30 min WGFIG – 1 hr	Environmental Analyst shadowing – 1 day (7.5 hours)
Week 4	Cluster Meeting – 1 hr	Environmental Analyst shadowing – 1 day (7.5 hours)

Required/preferred qualifications: Knowledge in Excel preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required, though will largely be remote.*

Primary location: 305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

DPH, Bureau of Healthcare Safety & Quality, Division of Quality Improvement
***Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on Suicide and Intentional Trauma Injury
in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts***

Background

The MA state trauma (TR) registry was established to capture trauma-related injuries and outcomes of care reported by facilities (designated trauma centers and community hospitals) licensed by the state to provide emergency services. This project aims to examine suicide and intentional trauma injuries pre-, during, and post-pandemic.

Methods

The student may participate in the following tasks:

- Data Cleaning:
 - Helps standardize trauma data across multiple years and data platforms.
- Data Compilation/Manipulation:
 - Supports epidemiological methods for suicide/intentional injury captured in statewide trauma events.
- Participation in Division of Quality Improvement Meetings:
 - Invite the intern to attend various staff meetings, including Analyst Meetings and Trauma Team meetings.
 - Provide opportunities for the intern to gain insight into the trauma registry database, observe discussions with vendors (as appropriate), and contribute insights.

Expected Outcomes

- Descriptive analysis of statewide trauma events touched by suicide/intentional harm.
- Summary report of suicide/intentional harm trends across COVID periods.
- Oral presentation at internal/external meeting.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate or MPH students with knowledge in Excel and data-related skills (e.g., biostatistics, SAS, R) preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required, though will largely be remote.*

Primary location: 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02118

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

DPH, Immunization Division Data Assessment Unit

Background

The Massachusetts (MA) School Immunization Survey is delivered annually to all schools with a childcare/preschool, kindergarten, grade 7 or 12, in addition to colleges and universities in Massachusetts. The survey is strongly recommended and is used to assess compliance with immunizations required for school entry and monitor immunization trends over time to inform policy and programming decisions.

Ensuring the survey reaches all appropriate schools is paramount to the accuracy of the survey's data and the success of projects and programming that rely on it. This project aims to perform a comprehensive review of the School Immunization Database, identify areas for data quality improvement, and conduct outreach and investigation efforts to ensure programs are properly registered and aware of the MA School Immunization Requirements and survey.

Methods

- **Assess data quality of school demographic details**
 - Familiarize oneself with the School Immunization Database, and reflect on what data is currently being captured
 - Identify potential data quality issues with the school demographic details present in the database, and seek out missing programs
 - Document programs with apparent issues, missing programs and analyze for potential trends
 - Present a prioritization system for problem program and outline a method for adjusting key demographic details
- **Adjust outdated demographic information & add missing programs**
 - Design a shared worklist for Data Assessment Unit members and delegate programs for outreach and investigation
 - Execute on the outlined methodology for adjusting key demographic details and adding newly identified programs
 - Track progress with outreach efforts amongst unit members
- **Conduct outreach with school programs**
 - Draft email and phone script to be utilized for outreach amongst unit members
 - Report on problems with outreach efforts, and identify solutions to keep
- **Participate in Data Assessment Unit meetings and activities**
 - Attend Data Assessment Unit meetings and outings
 - Engage in other project areas such as with data requests and IQIPs
 - Participate in meaningful discussions, contribute expertise, and offer insights to the unit, and gain exposure to immunization public health

Expected Outcomes

- A report of missing programs and programs in our database with both obvious and nuanced data quality issues, including any identifiable patterns or trends

- A document outlining by what means programs are to be prioritized for outreach accompanied by an outline on how unit members adjust key demographic details and add newly identified programs
- A shared worklist for Data Assessment Unit members to track progress and notes on outreach and investigation
- Email and phone script or outline for unit members to utilize during outreach and investigation

Required/preferred qualifications: MPH students with knowledge in Excel preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 305 South Street Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 and 67 Forest Street Marlborough, MA 01752

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Duke's County/Inter-Island Public Health Collaborative
Martha's Vineyard Tick Program

Background

The Martha's Vineyard Tick Program, housed under Dukes County, is a community-based public health initiative focused on tick surveillance, tick bite prevention, and response to tick-borne diseases on Martha's Vineyard. The island of Martha's Vineyard experiences a high burden of tick exposure due to its ecology, land use patterns, and outdoor-oriented population, with multiple species of human-biting ticks present and increasing concerns about tick overabundance. In recent years, the Island has also experienced growing awareness and incidence of Alpha-Gal Syndrome (AGS), an emerging tick-associated allergy that is not yet reportable in Massachusetts.

Local health departments face persistent capacity challenges in addressing vector-borne disease threats, particularly those that require field surveillance, interdisciplinary coordination, and sustained community engagement. Traditional public health training often provides limited exposure to hands-on vector surveillance, applied epidemiology, and community-based prevention strategies. The Martha's Vineyard Tick Program was developed to address these gaps by integrating public health biology, epidemiology, nursing, and education into a coordinated, locally grounded response.

This internship project is designed to expand program capacity during the peak tick season while providing a student intern with immersive, real-world public health experience. The intern will contribute to ongoing tick surveillance and prevention activities, learn foundational tick biology and identification, and gain exposure to emerging public health issues such as Alpha-Gal Syndrome. The placement emphasizes applied learning, mentorship, and field-based experience, offering the intern a unique opportunity to observe how local public health translates science and surveillance into practical prevention strategies for residents and visitors.

Methods

The intern will participate in a combination of field-based surveillance, community engagement, and applied public health learning activities under the supervision of a public health biologist and epidemiologist. Activities will be tailored to the intern's interests and background while ensuring exposure to core competencies in vector-borne disease prevention and response.

Primary responsibilities will include:

- Assisting with tick surveillance activities
 - Tick dragging in residential and public settings and support with basic tick identification and documentation
- Accompanying staff during residential yard surveys to observe how tick findings are communicated to homeowners and how individualized prevention strategies are developed based on landscape features and human behavior
- Support community outreach and education
 - Staffing informational tables at community events
 - Assisting with preparation of educational materials on tick bite prevention
 - Supporting public presentations and virtual programs related to tick-borne disease and Alpha-Gal Syndrome

- Additional activities may include assisting with data entry, basic descriptive analyses related to tick surveillance or program activities, and writing reports, as appropriate for the intern's skill level

Throughout the internship, the student will participate in regular check-ins and mentorship meetings with program staff to reflect on learning objectives, discuss career pathways in public health, and connect field observations to broader epidemiologic and prevention frameworks. This placement is best suited for a student able to secure independent housing on Martha's Vineyard due to the field-based and in-person nature of the work.

Expected Outcomes

By the conclusion of the summer internship (160 hours), the intern will have gained hands-on experience in applied vector-borne disease prevention and local public health practice. The intern will develop foundational skills in tick surveillance methods, including tick dragging, habitat observation, and basic identification, and will demonstrate an increased understanding of tick ecology, tick-borne diseases, and bite prevention strategies relevant to a high-incidence community.

The intern will gain practical experience in community engagement and public health communication, including observing and supporting residential yard surveys and participating in outreach activities at community events. Through these experiences, the intern will learn how public health professionals translate scientific information into clear, actionable guidance tailored to community needs.

The intern will also gain exposure to emerging public health issues, including Alpha-Gal Syndrome, and will better understand how local health departments identify, track, and respond to conditions that are not yet well characterized or reportable. Participation in educational sessions and mentorship discussions will strengthen the intern's understanding of the role of epidemiology and public health biology in disease prevention and response.

For the Martha's Vineyard Tick Program, the internship will provide additional seasonal capacity to support tick surveillance and outreach activities during the peak tick season. The intern's contributions will support timely completion of field activities, enhance community engagement efforts, and assist with documentation and summary tracking of program activities. Collectively, these outcomes will strengthen both workforce development and the program's ability to deliver effective, community-based tick prevention services.

Required/preferred qualifications: *Students with bilingual skills and the ability to work/walk in outdoor conditions (hot weather, long distances, uneven terrain) preferred.*

*This internship is an **in-person** position.*

Primary location: 9 Airport Road, Edgartown, MA 02539

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Town of Foxborough

Background

The Town of Foxborough is seeking a motivated intern for its 2026 Summer Internship Program. This internship offers a unique opportunity to contribute to a local public health initiative by creating a Healthy Eating Guide for residents and visitors of Foxborough. The guide will highlight nutritious dining options in Foxborough and promote healthy lifestyle choices within the community.

Methods

- Research & Outreach
 - Research other public health healthy eating promotions and literature that support healthy eating.
 - Visit local restaurants (in-person and online) to identify healthy menu options that meet our definition of healthy.
 - Communicate with restaurant owners to gather information about the menu and to request photography for the guide.
- Content Development
 - Create a brochure that explains what constitutes a healthy meal and why it matters.
 - Design a map of participating restaurants with corresponding healthy menu item choices.
- Presentation & Promotion
 - Prepare the final guide for distribution via the Town's website, social media, at public buildings, and during Town events.
 - Present findings and the completed guide to the Foxborough Board of Health at the end of the internship.

Expected Outcomes

- Develop a comprehensive Healthy Eating Guide featuring, how to make healthy food choices, local restaurants serving healthy menu items, and items on the menu that we suggest.
- Educate the community and local business leaders about the importance of balanced nutrition and healthy eating.
- Promote healthy eating materials to the community through social media, websites and Town events.
- Gain a hands-on experience by shadowing local health department staff during normal operations.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate student with strong interest in public health, nutrition, or community engagement; excellent communication and organizational skills; ability to work independently and collaboratively with local businesses and town staff; and interest in working for local public health.

*This internship is an **in-person** position.*

Primary location: 40 South Street, Foxborough, MA 02035

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Great Meadows Public Health Collaborative

Regional Substance Use Prevention: Coalition Building, Program Implementation & Evaluation

Background

In 2024 the towns of Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln, Sudbury, Weston and Wayland pooled a portion of their opioid abatement funds to hire a Regional Substance Use Prevention Coordinator (RSUPC). This position was created to support substance use prevention and treatment infrastructure within the public health region. An important component of doing prevention work is building community relationships to support and disseminate information about the work the region is doing. This project would aim to support that work by assisting the RSUPC with coalition building among community partners in the region, and among residents of the region. The region underwent an assessment to determine spending priorities for the opioid settlement funds in late 2025 and early 2026. The intern would work with the RSUPC to coordinate program implementation based on findings from this assessment. The intern would also work with the RSUPC on the development of an evaluation plan to determine efficacy of the programming.

Methods

The student may participate in the following tasks:

- Coalition Building:
 - Attend meetings, take notes, and summarize key points of action identified in these meetings.
 - Document key findings and relationship dynamics among local boards of health, community partners, and individuals with lived experience.
 - Attend community events to connect with regional residents and inform them about the work we do using opioid settlement funds.
- Program implementation & Evaluation
 - Informed by the data from the assessment, determine key priorities for programming.
 - Identify programs that exist within our region already, or programs we can expand into our region to address these key priorities.
 - Develop an evaluation plan that ensures the funded programs are having the desired effect on participants.

Expected Outcomes

- Implement two programs for substance use prevention, treatment, and/or recovery within the region.
- Evaluation plan, including creation of any pre/post-tests, for the implemented programs.
- Understanding of the regions populations and needs as determined by the assessment and continued engagement with the community.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 275 Old Lancaster Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health/Town of Northborough
***Assessing and Expanding Maternal, Child, and Family Health partnerships in the
Greater Boroughs***

Background

The Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health (GBPH) was established in 2021 through the Public Health Excellence grant to provide and expand public health services in the towns of Boylston, Northborough, Southborough, and Westborough. One area of focus for GBPH has been Maternal, Child and Family Health as it is a foundational public health service and is vital to the health of a community. Over the last 2 years we have created a resource guide and established prenatal workshops, such as intro to breastfeeding workshops. We would now like to increase our capacity and the expertise available through establishing community partnerships.

We are seeking an intern to assist in expanding our ability to collaborate with community partners. The first step in establishing community partnerships is gaining an understanding of what groups exist in our region, their experience, and how they might be willing to work with our group. The intern will assess the landscape of Maternal Health partners in the Greater Boroughs region and set up the foundation that we can build upon as we continue to advance maternal, child, and family Health initiatives in our four towns.

Methods

The student may participate in the following tasks:

- Research Community programs regarding maternal, child, and family health:
 - Review programs that existing in other health departments that could be models for our region
 - Review programs or partners working on maternal, child, and family health in GBPH region
 - Identify potential points of collaboration and alignment between GBPH goals on maternal, child, and family health and community partners initiatives
 - Utilize focus groups or individual interviews to delve deeper into barriers, historical considerations, and other resources
- Research best practices for maternal, family, and child health programing in local public health settings:
 - Review Foundational public health service recommendations and related public health standards for maternal, child, and family health at a national level
 - Document findings to inform future program development.
 - Create a draft program plan based on best practice.
- Engage with epidemiological data collection and analysis:
 - Work with epidemiologist to review and update maternal, child, and family health data for GBPH region
 - Research and identify new data sources
- Participate in Local Public Health Meetings:
 - Attend various staff meetings, including Regional Epidemiologist meetings, Regional Nursing meetings, and GBPH Advisory Board meetings.

Expected Outcomes

- A comprehensive report detailing the findings of the evaluation of community partners, programs, and existing resources.
- Recommendations for expanding maternal, child and family health programs based on best practices and what would fit in the GBPH community.
- A summary of existing community organizations' experiences and input from focus groups and other research to better understand the context of Maternal, Child, and Family Health work in the GBPH region.
- A final power point presentation to the GBPH Advisory Board on work and final recommendations

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate students, MPH students preferred.

This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.

Primary location: 63 Main Street, Northborough MA 01532

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Town of Hopkinton

Community Health Assessment with Environmental Risk Assessment

Background

As the Town of Hopkinton progresses through the Massachusetts local public health standardization process, the Health Department has identified the need to complete a Community Health Assessment (CHA). Hopkinton is a predominantly residential community with rural characteristics, strong childhood vaccination rates, and a well-established public health nursing program that supports seniors aging in place.

A significant public health concern exists within one of the town's largest residential developments, which is also designated as an environmental justice neighborhood. The development was constructed on a former landscape nursery with documented legacy pesticide contamination. Recent soil sampling identified dieldrin concentrations exceeding current residential reporting thresholds, yet regulatory remediation options are limited due to the agricultural exemption.

Additional environmental concerns include the historical application of reconstituted sewage sludge from a wastewater treatment facility associated with PFAS contamination, as well as the potential presence of toxic metals such as cadmium, chromium, and selenium. PFAS have been detected in groundwater beneath the site. The development also abuts an Eversource peak shaving facility and aging natural gas pipeline infrastructure, raising concerns about cumulative environmental exposures.

This project will support the Hopkinton Health Department's capacity to assess community health needs, evaluate environmental risks, and inform future public health planning, particularly for children and other vulnerable populations.

Methods

The intern will support the Hopkinton Health Department through the following activities:

- Compile and review existing demographic, health, and environmental data relevant to Hopkinton.
- Assist in drafting sections of the Community Health Assessment, with emphasis on environmental health and environmental justice considerations.
- Review available environmental sampling data related to legacy pesticides, PFAS contamination, and potential heavy metals at the residential development.
- Summarize known health risks associated with these contaminants, with a focus on pediatric exposure and vulnerable populations.
- Assist in developing outreach materials or summary documents to support communication with residents, community partners, or state agencies.
- Participate in meetings with Health Department staff and relevant partners.

Expected Outcomes

By the conclusion of the 160-hour summer internship, the following outcomes are anticipated:

- A draft Community Health Assessment document for the Town of Hopkinton with a defined environmental health section.
- A synthesized summary of environmental risks associated with pesticide contamination, PFAS, and potential heavy metals.

- Identification of priority public health concerns and recommendations for future assessment and mitigation efforts.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate students or MPH students with data-related skills (e.g., biostatistics, SAS, R) preferred.

This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.

Primary location: 18 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Hopkinton, MA 01748

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements.

Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative
***Maternal and Child Health Landscape Assessment Across Martha's Vineyard,
Nantucket, and Gosnold***

Background

Maternal and child health (MCH) services are a critical component of public health infrastructure, particularly in geographically isolated island communities where access, workforce capacity, and service coordination present unique challenges. Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Gosnold each have organizations engaged in MCH-related work, but there is currently no comprehensive, cross-island assessment that documents existing services, identifies gaps, or highlights opportunities for coordination and shared learning.

The Inter-Island Public Health Excellence Collaborative (IIPHEC) supports regional approaches to strengthening public health capacity across island communities. While IIPHEC partners regularly engage in maternal, child, and family health efforts, limited staff capacity has constrained the ability to systematically assess the current MCH landscape across all three islands. This project addresses that gap by supporting an in-depth, place-based assessment that will inform planning, collaboration, and future investments in MCH services.

Methods

The intern will conduct a primarily in-person maternal and child health landscape assessment across Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Gosnold under the supervision of a subset of IIPHEC Advisory Board members. The intern will work approximately 14.5 hours per week, based primarily on Martha's Vineyard, with travel to Nantucket as needed.

Key activities may include:

- Document Review and Background Research
 - Review existing reports, community health assessments, strategic plans, and publicly available data related to maternal and child health on each island; and
 - Compile baseline demographic and health indicators relevant to MCH.
- Stakeholder Mapping and Outreach
 - Identify organizations, programs, and providers engaged in maternal, child, and family health services across the three islands; and
 - Conduct in-person or virtual key informant interviews with public health staff, healthcare providers, community-based organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Landscape Assessment Development
 - Document the scope of MCH services currently offered, including prevention, education, clinical services, and social supports; and
 - Identify service gaps, access barriers, duplications, and opportunities for coordination or regional approaches.
- Synthesis and Reporting
 - Analyze findings across islands to identify shared challenges as well as island-specific needs; and
 - Draft a clear, accessible, and publishable maternal and child health landscape assessment for use by IIPHEC and its partners.
- Engagement and Supervision
 - Participate in regular check-ins with IIPHEC Advisory Board supervisors; and

- Attend relevant meetings or site visits to deepen understanding of island public health practice.

Expected Outcomes

By the conclusion of the summer program (approximately 160 hours), the following outcomes are expected:

- A published maternal and child health landscape assessment for Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Gosnold that documents existing services, key stakeholders, and identified gaps.
- A clear inventory of organizations currently engaged in MCH work across the islands, supporting future coordination and collaboration.
- Actionable insights that IIPHEC and its partners can use to inform planning, funding decisions, and regional strategies to strengthen maternal and child health services in island communities.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate students or undergraduate or MPH students with some health background (e.g., at least one semester of public health courses) and bilingual skills preferred.

This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.

Primary location: 56 School Street, Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

City of Lynn, Inspectional Services Department-Division of Public Health
“Lynn Public Health-The Big Picture”

Background

The City of Lynn is a diverse City with a population of over 100,000. The Public Health Division plays a major role in the community by aiming to address the needs and serve every resident. The Division’s work includes disease surveillance and investigation, community grant initiatives, public health promotion efforts (social media, events etc.), substance use disorder prevention and community liaising, emergency preparedness, community vaccination efforts and much more. Thus, as we look towards the future of welcoming interns to the team, we are eager to allow them to take a deep-dive into our work but also to listen to their new ideas, perspectives and point of view in order to achieve mutual goals of improved public health in Lynn.

Methods

The student(s) may be assigned the following:

- Assist with disease surveillance and reporting/case follow-up
 - Aide Epidemiologist with question packages in MAVEN
 - Send letters to patients that cannot be reached telephonically
- Play a role in health promotion efforts
 - Assist with social media posts and draft future posts
 - Research and create print material on current health issues in Lynn, taking into consideration health literacy and cultural relevancy
 - Be present at community events throughout the City as a public health ambassador (e.g. farmer’s market)
 - Support public health resources in the community by checking and restocking of Narcan boxes and community vending machine.
- Take part in overdose prevention/substance use disorder prevention work
 - Assist with targeted messaging for overdose prevention
 - Work to distribute overdose data.
 - Support opioid abatement initiatives (Narcan boxes, kits, vending machine etc.)
- Shadow environmental health staff within Inspectional Services
 - Observe inspectors during their day-to day work (may include travelling within the city of Lynn)
 - Assist with food establishment owner correspondence to follow up on inspection findings
- Attend meetings throughout the work day
 - Be present and contribute as applicable to staff and other public health related meetings

Expected Outcomes

- Draft recommendations for future social media posts on pressing health topics in the community
- Create proposal for substance use prevention promotion efforts addressed to groups in the community that have been disproportionately affected by overdose and drug use.

Required/preferred qualifications: Undergraduate students or MPH students with bilingual skills preferred. Priority will be given to applicants who reside in Lynn.

*This internship is an **in-person** position.*

Primary location: 3 City Hall Square, Lynn, MA 01901

**Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements.
Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.**

Mansfield Health Department

Background

Local Health Departments have many roles and responsibilities, providing oversight, education, enforcement, and outreach on environmental and community health topics. With a wide variety of topics available at the local level, the Mansfield Health Department Intern will be able to focus on what most interests them with several ideas available and the option to develop an individual project. The majority of work will be done independently with guidance, input, and collaboration from the Health Director. This internship can be a hybrid position but interns will truly benefit from working within the daily operations of the Health Department. In addition to working on specific tasks, the intern will attend Board of Health meetings, several local outreach events, environmental inspections, regional and state-wide meetings, and additional trainings.

Methods

The following project ideas are available for an intern to work on:

- Develop strategies to integrate health equity into departmental practices using Health Resources in Action Community Health Training Institute.
- Develop educational materials around food safety for both retail food establishments and residents. Educational packets for food establishments targeting common violations will be assembled and emailed and/delivered. Programs such as Northern Nevada Public Health Active Managerial control resources, CDC Food safety culture tool, and FDA Retail food protection industry educational materials will be used.
- Examine tobacco control practices within Mansfield.
- Develop education material packet for tobacco retailers on best practices to avoid violations.
- Assemble resource guide for residents who are considering stopping nicotine and tobacco use.
- Design templates for health promotion topics for Town newsletter, social media and flyers. There are 30 public health topics highlighted on the Mansfield Public Health webpage. These pages will be reviewed, updated, and expanded based on the work done during the internship.
- Develop Public Health Services and Guidance document for Mansfield senior citizens.
- Review the 2023 Mansfield Community Health Assessment, updating the information and expanding outreach and develop programs based on the CHA.
- Work with SSA Health Departments to develop a Bristol-Norfolk Public Health Partners newsletter.
- Review current Body Art Regulations, NEHA Model Code, and other regional Body Art Regulations to make revision recommendations to the Board.
- Develop Emergency Preparedness material for residents.
- Host specific trainings and provide educational outreach to residents for things like assembling an emergency kit, food safety in a power outage, septic maintenance during severe flooding, and actions during extreme heat.

Expected Outcomes

A final project will be expected based on the topic(s) chosen during the internship. This may be educational information, suggested programming, updated webpages, survey questionnaires and results, and/or comprehensive reports. This will be presented to the Board of Health at the end of the program.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 6 Park Row, Mansfield, MA 02048

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Medfield Health Department

Strengthening Health Communication Practices and Policies with the Medfield Health and Human Services Department

Background

The Town of Medfield's Health and Human Services Department seeks to utilize a Public Health Intern to support the promotion of community wellness, health equity, and public engagement. As the Health Department continues to review and develop policies and programs grounded in evidence-based and best practice methods, the importance of clear, consistent, and accessible health communication has become increasingly evident.

Effective health communication is essential to promoting understanding, building trust, and encouraging community participation in public health initiatives. Currently, communication practices may vary across departments and programs. A dedicated intern would assist the Health and Human Services departments in strengthening and coordinating communication strategies to ensure messaging is inclusive, consistent, and aligned with public health goals. The Public Health Intern would support the development of communication campaigns, educational materials, and social media content designed to engage residents, increase awareness of health initiatives, and promote healthy behaviors. This work would focus on advancing community wellness, improving access to information, and fostering meaningful opportunities for public engagement.

Through this role, the intern would contribute to efforts to promote health equity by helping tailor messaging to diverse audiences, translating public health information into clear and actionable content, and supporting outreach initiatives that connect residents to available resources and programs. The internship would provide valuable hands-on experience in municipal public health practice while enhancing the department's capacity to communicate effectively with the Medfield community.

Methods

The following are ideas on how the intern could work on this topics:

- Assist in developing a calendar to address various public health topics.
- Develop a database (shared folder) that includes flyers and public education materials on selected public health topics.
- Meet with staff from each of the health and human service departments to streamline messaging
- Improve on internal and external communication consistency and methods
- Expand on and establish different avenues for communication (social media, website, etc)
- Assess needs and areas we could improve on our health communication strategies

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the project the intern, along with the health and human service departments will have conducted a communication needs assessment, developed a written communication policy/plan, identify and formalize communication channels (email, social media, community partners, website etc), create standardized message development and approval process, and pilot at least.

Required/preferred qualifications: Undergraduate students, MPH students, undergraduate students with some health background (e.g., at least one semester of public health courses) preferred.

This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.

Primary location: 459 Main Street, Medfield MA 02052

Merrimack Valley Public Health Alliance (MVPHA)

Maternal and Child Health Community Assessment and Program Support

Background

The Merrimack Valley Public Health Alliance (MVPHA), in alignment with the Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) framework, is committed to improving maternal and child health (MCH) outcomes across its seven shared service agreement (SSA) communities. Despite this commitment, limited staff capacity has constrained MVPHA's ability to consistently advance priority MCH initiatives and conduct comprehensive regional assessments.

To address this gap, MVPHA seeks to engage a graduate-level public health intern to support the completion of a regional Maternal and Child Health community assessment. This assessment will synthesize data from multiple sources to better identify priority needs, gaps in services, and opportunities for targeted programming. In addition, the intern will support evaluation activities related to prenatal and postpartum programs and contribute to planning efforts for the Community Baby Shower, a regional event designed to support expectant families and connect them with health and social services.

This project will strengthen MVPHA's capacity to use data to inform program planning, improve services for families, and support future grant and funding applications.

Methods

The intern will support MVPHA through the following activities:

- **Maternal and Child Health Community Assessment**
 - Compile and analyze data from sources such as the Population Health Information Tool, Birth Outcomes Data of Massachusetts, Kaiser Family Foundation, and municipal birth data.
 - Assist in synthesizing findings into a regional MCH assessment covering the seven SSA communities.
 - Work collaboratively with MVPHA staff to identify priority needs and gaps in services.
- **Program Evaluation Support**
 - Assist with the development, distribution, and/or analysis of outcome surveys for prenatal breastfeeding and postpartum breastfeeding/safe baby programs.
 - Summarize findings to help inform program improvements and funding applications.
- **Community Baby Shower Planning Support**
 - Provide support to the Community Baby Shower Planning Committee as time allows.
 - Assist with event logistics, community partner engagement, and development of health education materials for new and expecting parents.
 - Support partner mapping and contribute to the development of a community resource guide.

Expected Outcomes

By the conclusion of the 160-hour summer internship, the following outcomes are anticipated:

- A draft or completed Maternal and Child Health community assessment for the seven MVPHA SSA communities, summarizing key data, trends, and priority needs.
- A summary of findings from program outcome surveys to inform improvements to prenatal and postpartum programming.
- Supporting materials for the Community Baby Shower initiative, such as partner lists, draft educational materials, or components of a community resource guide.

These deliverables will enhance MVPHA's capacity to plan, evaluate, and strengthen maternal and child health initiatives across the region.

Required/preferred qualifications: MPH students with data-related skills (e.g., biostatistics, SAS, R) preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 60 Pleasant Street, Newburyport MA 01950

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

MetroWest Shared Public Health Service

Regional Community Resource Mapping and Environmental Justice Focused GIS Visualization Initiative

Background

The MetroWest Shared Public Health Service (MWSPHS) provides regional public health and epidemiological support to nine municipalities that includes Ashland, Framingham, Hopkinton, Hudson, Maynard, Medway, Millis, Milford, and Natick - enabling shared capacity for disease surveillance, community health assessment, and data-informed public health planning. A persistent challenge across the region is the absence of a centralized, standardized, and routinely updated community resource guide that can be used consistently by local boards of health, public health nurses, community health workers, and municipal partners.

Currently, community resource information such as food access, housing assistance, behavioral health services, maternal and child health programs, transportation, and financial support is fragmented, maintained at varying levels across municipalities, and often outdated. This limits the ability of public health staff to efficiently connect residents to services, identify service gaps, and plan coordinated regional interventions.

In addition, several municipalities within the MWSPHS region include populations designated as Environmental Justice (EJ) populations under Massachusetts criteria, characterized by higher proportions of low-income residents, residents of color, and households with limited English proficiency. These communities often face disproportionate barriers to accessing essential services. At present, there is limited regional capacity to systematically identify EJ block groups and assess whether community resources are equitably distributed across EJ and non-EJ areas.

This internship project seeks to address these capacity gaps by supporting the development of a regional community resource guide and the creation of ArcGIS-based maps that visualize resource availability across the region, with a specific focus on Environmental Justice block groups. The project will strengthen MWSPHS's ability to support equity-focused planning, community health needs assessments (CHNAs), and future grant and program development.

Methods

During the 160-hour summer internship, the intern will work under the supervision of MWSPHS public health and epidemiology staff and will complete the following activities:

- Community Resource Data Collection and Organization
 - Review existing community resource lists from participating municipalities and regional partners.
 - Conduct structured outreach to municipal staff, public health nurses, community health workers, and community-based organizations to identify key health and social service resources.
 - Develop and maintain a standardized data template capturing resource type, location, service population, eligibility criteria, hours of operation, and contact information.
 - Organize resources into consistent categories (e.g., food access, housing, behavioral health, maternal and child health, transportation, financial assistance).
- Development of a Regional Community Resource Guide

- Compile collected data into a standardized regional community resource guide suitable for internal public health use.
- Ensure consistency, clarity, and usability across municipalities.
- Incorporate feedback from MWSPHS staff to refine the guide and support future sustainability.
- GIS Mapping and Environmental Justice Analysis
 - Prepare and geocode community resource data for spatial analysis.
 - Utilize ArcGIS to create regional maps displaying the geographic distribution of community resources across the nine municipalities.
 - Identify Massachusetts Environmental Justice (EJ) block groups within the MWSPHS region using publicly available EJ datasets.
 - Overlay community resource locations with EJ block groups to assess access to services within EJ-designated areas.
 - Conduct a basic descriptive analysis comparing resource availability in EJ versus non-EJ areas (e.g., resource density, types of services available).
 - Develop equity-focused map products that highlight potential service gaps affecting EJ populations.
- Stakeholder Engagement and Applied Learning
 - Attend MWSPHS team meetings and selected regional public health meetings.
 - Receive orientation to regional public health practice, shared service models, applied epidemiology, and GIS use in public health.
 - Present final deliverables to MWSPHS staff for feedback and discussion.

Expected Outcomes

By the conclusion of the 160-hour internship, the following outcomes are anticipated:

- A standardized regional community resource guide covering key health and social services across the MWSPHS municipalities.
- GIS-based maps visualizing community resource distribution across the region.
- Identification and visualization of Environmental Justice (EJ) block groups and assessment of community resource availability within EJ areas.
- Identification of service gaps or inequities that may inform targeted outreach, program planning, and future funding efforts.
- Strengthened regional capacity to maintain and use community resources and GIS data to support equity-focused public health decision-making.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate students, MPH students, undergraduate students with some health background (e.g., at least one semester of public health courses) and data-related skills (e.g., biostatistics, SAS, R) preferred.

This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.

Primary location: 78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749

Mill Towns Public Health (Ludlow, Palmer, Warren, & West Brookfield)
The Regional Community Education Program

Background

The Mill Towns Shared Services Collaborative is looking for an intern to aid in strengthening the community's knowledge of duties the Health Department/Board of Health partakes in. Between the Shared Services Agreement (SSA) and the already established Health Departments/Boards of Health, there are many resources available to community members that they may be unaware of. The first goal is to increase businesses' knowledge of common Food Code violations to prevent foodborne illnesses, and to aid in smoothing the permitting schedule process. The second goal is to increase residents' knowledge of Social Service programs offered through the Health Departments/Boards of Health.

Methods

The student may participate in the following tasks:

- Develop educational materials to highlight common Food Code violations observed in Ludlow, Palmer, Warren, & West Brookfield establishments, explain the associated risks of foodborne illnesses, and offer practical prevention strategies.
- Design a checklist for businesses that organizes when permits, licenses, and certifications are to be renewed.
- Creating content for social media accounts that aligns with the services offered through the SSA and additional educational materials, graphics, and links to reputable resources with information on emergency preparedness, health and wellness.
- Assisting with the development of the Mill Towns Public Health webpage, that will include a "what permit do I need" flowchart and a "frequently asked questions" document.
- The intern will have the opportunity to shadow various inspections and help with resident follow up with the Regional Health Inspector; and if desired, the intern will have the opportunity to shadow and assist with other aspects of the Shared Service Coordinator's role or engage in other projects within the Shared Service Agreement.

Expected Outcomes

- The completion of a flowchart to help businesses determine what permit best fits their needs, e.g. Temporary food Permit, Annual Permit, etc.
- A document that compiles frequently asked questions that are heard most often in the health department, that is based on feedback from Administrative Assistants and Health Inspectors.
- Updates/documents to update the Health Department/Board of Health websites to better reflect resources offered through the Health Department/Board of Health.
- A collection of social media posts that can be published throughout the year.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate, MPH, or undergraduate student preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: Ludlow Health Department, 488 Chapin Street, Ludlow, MA 01056

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Nashoba Opioid Abatement Collaborative

Regional Substance Use Prevention Coalition Building and Enhanced Outreach Support

Background

In 2025, the Nashoba Opioid Abatement Collaborative (NOAC) was established by the towns of Harvard, Littleton, Bolton, Shirley, Ayer, Groton, and Pepperell. The goal of this collaborative is to use pooled Opioid Abatement Settlement Funds to address regional substance use disorder and mental health needs in a coordinated and strategic way.

Effective prevention work depends on strong community relationships and a clear understanding of local strengths, needs, and service gaps. This internship will support NOAC's advisory board, which includes representatives from each member town, by assisting with coalition building, community engagement, and needs assessment activities across the region. The intern will gain hands on experience working with municipal public health departments, regional partners, and community-based organizations.

Methods

The intern may participate in the following activities:

- Attend NOAC advisory board meetings and relevant subcommittee or partner meetings, including preparing meeting summaries and documenting action items.
- Support coalition building efforts by assisting with outreach to community partners such as boards of health, schools, councils on aging, youth serving organizations, healthcare providers, and organizations representing individuals with lived experience.
- Conduct research and data collection on opioid and substance use related resources in the region, including prevention programs, treatment providers, recovery supports, and existing municipal or regional initiatives.
- Assist in identifying gaps, overlaps, and priority areas for prevention and outreach based on stakeholder input and available data.
- Develop and maintain organized documentation of findings for use in regional planning, reporting, and future grant applications.
- Assist with the development of outreach and educational materials and support promotion of community meetings, listening sessions, or prevention focused events.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the internship, the following outcomes are anticipated:

- A regional relationship map illustrating key partners, coalitions, and stakeholders involved in substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts.
- An asset map of substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery resources across the NOAC member towns.
- A summary of identified service gaps and priority needs to inform the regional substance use prevention action plan.
- Improved outreach materials or communication tools to support community engagement and awareness.
- Practical experience for the intern in municipal and regional public health planning, coalition development, and community based prevention work.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required, though will largely be remote.*

Primary location: 37 Shattuck Street, Littleton, MA 01460

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

New Bedford Health Department

Environmental Health: Food Inspection Data Improvement Project

Background

The New Bedford Health Department is embarking on a major data-modernization effort to strengthen public health practice across its five divisions: Environmental Health Inspection & Compliance, Municipal Marine Laboratory, Public Health Nursing, Special Programs & Grants, and Operations & Social Innovation. With no dedicated epidemiologist, the department is seeking motivated graduate-level support to help build sustainable data systems that will drive smarter decision-making and improve community health.

One of the department's most essential and longstanding services is its Food Inspection and Compliance Program. Seven inspectors conduct multiple inspections per year across over 570 restaurants and food establishments, using a risk-based schedule to protect residents from foodborne illness. While the inspection program is robust, the volume of work leaves limited time for deeper data review, trend analysis, or program evaluation.

This internship offers the opportunity to modernize how the department collects, stores, and uses food inspection data—laying the groundwork for improved operations, targeted outreach to food establishments, and stronger population-level protections against foodborne disease.

Methods

The intern may participate in the following activities:

1. Environmental Health Program Orientation

- Meet Environmental Health Inspection & Compliance staff and observe day-to-day operations.
- Learn how inspection data is currently collected through paper forms and the OpenGov platform.
- Understand the regulatory and public health context of food safety inspections.

2. Database Development

- Design and build a structured, sustainable database to house all 2025 food inspection and compliance data.
- Digitize and enter all inspection records from 2025.

3. Data Analysis & Interpretation

- Analyze inspection data to identify trends, patterns, and areas of concern.
- Explore factors such as violation types, repeat issues, seasonal patterns, and establishment risk levels.
- Translate findings into meaningful insights about program performance and community needs.
- Create a data – to- action plan with corresponding recommendations or education materials.

4. Reporting & Recommendations

- Prepare a comprehensive report for Environmental Health Inspection & Compliance leadership.
- Present:
 - Key findings
 - Identified trends

- Recommendations for process improvements
- Suggested education or outreach strategies for food establishments
- Recommendations for long-term data sustainability

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the internship, the department will have:

- A fully developed and sustainable database for food inspection data.
- A complete digitized dataset for 2025 inspections.
- A detailed analysis report summarizing:
 - Overall findings
 - Trends and patterns
 - Opportunities for program improvement
 - Recommendations for targeted education and outreach
 - Strategies for ongoing data management

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate or MPH knowledge in Excel, and data-related skills (e.g., biostatistics, SAS, R) preferred.

*This internship is an **in-person** position.*

Primary location: 1213 Purchase Street New Bedford, MA 02740

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

City of Newton***Evaluation of Substance Use Education and Programming*****Background**

The City of Newton Health and Human Services Department is creating a Coalition for Community Wellness to provide an array of programming ranging from education surrounding substance prevention to treatment and recovery. This project aims to assist the coalition by creating focus groups to learn more about the current problem, education, and resources. Currently, little is known about the educational resources and the extent of the problems faced by youth and those in recovery. Through the administration of focus groups and key informant interviews, they will aid in identifying necessary information to support programming and educational opportunities for a healthy community.

Methods

The student may participate in the following tasks:

- Conduct Outreach to students and residents:
 - Coordinate with the epidemiologist and city team to identify points of contact.
 - Utilize focus groups and key informant interviews to delve deeper into specific themes or experiences
 - Compile and analyze data to extract insights into the program's long-term impact and areas of enhancement.
- Research community programs for substance prevention and substance use and recovery:
 - Review current programs and identify potential points of collaboration between the CCW and community partners.
 - Document findings to inform future partnership development and programming.

Expected Outcomes

- A comprehensive report detailing the findings of the focus groups, including insights into current educational practices and access to substance use supports.
- Recommendations for enhancing programming to address the identified gaps.
- A summary of programs and community partners relevant to substance use prevention, education, and sobriety for expanded programming.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate student with experience with data collection and program evaluation, ability to work independently preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, MA 02461

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

North Shore Public Health Collaborative (NSPHC): Beverly, Danvers, Lynn,
Marblehead, Nahant, Peabody, Salem, Swampscott

Advanced Regional Mortality Analysis and Health Equity Report for the North Shore

Background

Understanding patterns and trends in causes of death is a foundational public health function that informs prevention strategies, program planning, and resource allocation. The recent release of a statewide mortality dashboard by the Massachusetts Registry of Vital Statistics and Records provides improved access to cause-of-death data for municipalities across the Commonwealth. However, while the dashboard offers descriptive data, it does not provide in-depth regional synthesis, trend interpretation, health equity framing, or tailored recommendations specific to multi-municipality collaboratives.

The North Shore Public Health Collaborative (NSPHC) represents eight municipalities with diverse demographic, socioeconomic, and health profiles. Although mortality data are now publicly accessible, there remains a critical capacity gap in translating these data into actionable, equity-centered public health insights at the regional level.

This project shifts focus from data acquisition to advanced analytic interpretation. The intern will conduct deeper, policy-relevant analyses of mortality patterns across the North Shore, identify disparities by race/ethnicity, age, sex, and geography, and produce a comprehensive regional mortality report. The final deliverable will move beyond basic description to highlight trends, inequities, emerging issues, and prevention implications specific to NSPHC communities. This work will strengthen NSPHC's epidemiologic capacity by transforming existing data into a strategic planning and prevention tool.

Methods

The intern will work under the supervision of NSPHC epidemiology staff and will participate in the following activities:

- Data Extraction and Validation
 - Extract relevant municipal-level mortality data from the Massachusetts deaths dashboard and related public datasets.
 - Compile multi-year data (e.g., 5–10 years, as available) to assess trends over time.
 - Validate data completeness and document any limitations in race/ethnicity reporting, small cell suppression, or population denominators.
- Advanced and Stratified Analysis
 - Identify leading causes of death for the North Shore region overall and by municipality.
 - Conduct stratified analyses by age group, sex, and race/ethnicity where feasible.
 - Compare municipal mortality patterns to state benchmarks to identify excess burden or protective trends.
 - Assess time trends for key causes of death (e.g., cancer, heart disease, overdose, stroke, dementia).
 - Calculate age-adjusted rates where feasible and appropriate.
 - Identify statistically or practically meaningful disparities and emerging patterns.
- Health Equity and Contextual Interpretation

- Integrate demographic and socioeconomic context (e.g., population structure, income, racial composition) to interpret mortality differences across communities.
- Identify populations experiencing disproportionate mortality burden.
- Frame findings within a health equity lens to inform prevention priorities.
- Reporting and Dissemination
 - Develop a comprehensive written Regional Mortality Report (15–25 pages) suitable for use in Community Health Assessments, annual reports, and grant applications.
 - Create an executive summary tailored for municipal leadership and Boards of Health.
 - Develop visualizations (charts, infographics, municipal comparison tables) that clearly communicate findings.
 - Present findings to NSPHC staff and, if feasible, to regional partners.
- Professional Development
 - Attend NSPHC meetings to observe how epidemiologic data inform policy and programming.
 - Receive mentorship in applied epidemiology, rate calculation, health equity analysis, and public health communication.

Expected Outcomes

By the conclusion of the 160-hour summer internship, the following outcomes are anticipated:

- A comprehensive North Shore Regional Mortality Report synthesizing multi-year cause-of-death data.
- Stratified analyses identifying key disparities by race/ethnicity, age group, sex, and municipality.
- Identification of priority causes of death and emerging trends requiring prevention focus.
- Clear, actionable recommendations tailored to NSPHC municipalities.
- A reusable analytic framework that NSPHC can apply annually as updated mortality data become available.
- In addition to the cause of death analysis, the intern will assist the Epidemiologists with daily tasks as needed, such as infectious disease reporting, beach water testing, and naloxone distribution & analysis.

This project is realistic within a summer timeframe and produces a high-value deliverable that moves beyond publicly available dashboards to generate region-specific, equity-informed insights for strategic planning and prevention.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate students, MPH students, knowledge in Excel, and data-related skills (e.g., biostatistics, SAS, R) preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 98 Washington Street, 3rd Floor, Salem, MA, 01970

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Town of Orleans Health and Human Services Department
Public Health Communication & Education

Background

The Town of Orleans is looking for a summer intern who can assist with all things cyanobacteria! Over the last few years Orleans has seen an increase in blooms, concern among citizens, general misinformation and overall fear around the topic. Our department is looking to expand our resources and implement initiatives that provide citizens with applicable, accurate and thoughtful information and ample opportunities to learn more.

The intern will not only work with the Orleans Health & Human Services Department, but also town committees, local organizations and Barnstable County. To be clear, this is not a lab or field work internship it is an internship focused on public outreach, health education and health communication.

Methods

- Collaborate with Town committees, local organizations and Barnstable County to determine best practices for educating on cyanobacteria
- Independent research and translating scientific information into easy-to-digest tools for the general public
- Design and build a webpage addressing cyanobacteria, providing Orleans specific information, answering frequently asked questions and providing the best possible resources on the topic
- Design and develop educational signage to post at the Orleans freshwater beaches
- Write templates for the Health Agent to use regarding cyanobacteria communication on pet advisories, health advisories and pond closures
- Train recreation staff and lifeguards on cyanobacteria detection
- Record a podcast episode discussing frequently asked questions
- Possibly plan a community event at one of the popular ponds to provide educational materials and an opportunity for citizens to ask questions
- Present on resources developed to the Orleans Marine & Freshwater Advisory Committee and Board of Health

Expected Outcomes

- Build a database of educational resources that the town of Orleans can continue to use, and specifically launch a webpage on the Town website
- Determine and implement best practices to communicating on cyanobacteria, which must take into account objectives from different department and committees

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate, undergraduate, or doctoral student preferred.

This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.

Primary location: 19 School Road, Orleans, MA 02653

Town of Rockport

Update the database of domestic wells in Rockport

Background

The Rockport Health Department and Department of Public Works are making efforts to verify the number of existing potable, irrigation and geothermal wells in Town.

Methods

Under the guidance of the Public Health Director and DPW Business Manager, the intern will:

- Determine which wells currently in our database received permits from the Town
 - Determine whether a copy of the permit was provided to the property owner
 - Create and deliver to property owners copies of permits if not previously done
- Determine which wells in our database have a Well Completion Report on file with the Town
 - Pursue copies of all Well Completion Reports not on file with the Town
- Determine which wells currently in our database have a Well Completion Report on file with the Mass DEP Well Driller Program (DCR; Department of Conservation and Recreation)
 - Research to see which wells in Rockport are on file with the DCR and what information the DCR has regarding those wells
 - Create a list of property owners and well drillers who have not submitted Well Completion Reports to the DEP Well Driller Program
- Determine which currently active wells were inspected following installation
- Determine which currently active wells were tested
- Use file data to determine which wells currently in our Town database have been abandoned
 - Pursue needed documentation establishing which wells have been abandoned
 - Research whether any known wells that existed prior to the enactment of Title 5 regulations are grandfathered regarding permits, setbacks and reporting to the DEP, and create a list of those property owners
- Document which properties that have wells in Town are also on Town water

Expected Outcomes

Through producing a list of existing domestic wells in Rockport, the intern will gain hands-on data collection experience through interfacing with property owners, contractors and state agencies. They will develop a strong understanding that having accurate data is essential to protecting public health and the environment.

*This internship is an **in-person** position.*

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate, MPH, or doctoral student with at least one semester of public health courses preferred.

Primary location: Town Hall Annex, 26 Broadway, Rockport, MA 01966

Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative
Rural Health Public Messaging Improvements

Background

The Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative supports 12 towns in Southern Berkshire County, ranging in size from 160 - 7200 residents. The level of services available to the towns vary greatly both between each other as well as more populated areas of the state. The mission of our collaborative is to bridge those gaps and build public health services to all residents, regardless of town budget or population.

As we attempt to identify needs and create programming, we lack capacity to create adequate public messaging on various platforms, whether it is our website, social media pages, town listservs/social media pages, hometown newsletters, etc. creating content to be shared with regional residents that would help educate them on public health issues.

Methods

- We would be asking the intern to identify how people in each community get their information and build out a spreadsheet that captures details on how SBPHC can utilize those means in each of our 12 member towns.
- Development of social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram.
- Review of our current website www.southernberkshirehealth.com and make recommendations to improve ease of use and content.
- The intern would then create targeted public health messaging on various topics and distribute that messaging to the communities through the means identified in the previous step, including
- Create the structure for a SBPHC quarterly newsletter, including creating a method for people to subscribe to the newsletter. At least one edition of the newsletter shall be distributed during the summer.

Expected Outcomes

- Completion of a comprehensive survey of means to distribute public information in each of our 12 rural communities
- Posting of at least four (4) public health messages throughout the summer.
- Produce recommendations to improve website.
- Creation of a newsletter base and subscribing platform and work with SBPHC staff to issue at least one edition.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 50 Main Street, Stockbridge, MA 01262

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Southern Plymouth County Public Health Excellence Collaborative
Improving Awareness of Maternal and Child Health Resources to New Parents and Caregivers

Background

The Southern Plymouth County Public Health Excellence Collaborative (SPCPHEC) is a partnership among the towns of Carver, Duxbury, Kingston, Plymouth, Plympton, and Wareham. The mission of SPCPHEC is to increase the equitable delivery of public health services and to improve local public health infrastructure to its 6 member municipalities. A recent statewide needs assessment identified MCH as a priority area for the Commonwealth, reinforcing the importance of coordinated regional action. In response, SPCPHEC is committed to expanding MCH services, education, and partnerships. This project has two primary goals: (1) to increase public awareness of existing MCH resources within the Collaborative and (2) to build and strengthen relationships with local MCH partners as SPCPHEC expands its work. The internship provides hands-on experience in public health education and community outreach focused on maternal and child health.

Methods

- Review, capture, and compile current maternal and child healthcare resources within the Collaborative.
 - Review and document maternal and child health resources within the collaborative, with a focus on resources aligned with the MA Title V State Action Plan Structure.
 - Document each resource's mission, services provided, and population served.
 - Collect and organize contact information for key organizational contacts.
- Design informative maternal & child health resource post-card and flyer.
 - Create a health education and resources postcard for distribution to new parents and caregivers.
 - Create a one-page flyer of maternal and child health resources suitable for patient rooms at healthcare provider offices.
 - *If feasible*: translate materials into key target languages (Portuguese, Haitian Creole)
- Contact relevant healthcare offices to distribute health education materials
 - Contact local healthcare offices to assess interest in posting MCH resource flyers in patient areas.
 - Coordinate with town clerk offices and/or hospitals to discuss distribution of MCH postcards.

Expected Outcomes

- A comprehensive list of maternal and child health resources within the collaborative.
- A health education postcard and flyer featuring MCH resources in Plymouth County, distributed through relevant healthcare offices and town clerk offices.
- A final report or presentation summarizing outreach activities, engagement outcomes, and recommendations for sustaining and expanding MCH efforts.

Required/preferred qualifications: Portuguese and/or Haitian Creole speaker preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 26 Court Street, Public Health Division Plymouth, MA 02360

SPHL, Laboratory Information Management Systems Division and Quality Assurance Division

Improving Laboratory Business Processes and Provider Communication to Support LIMS Implementation

Background

Public health laboratories rely on well-defined internal business processes and clear external communication with clinical and environmental submitters to ensure timely, complete, and high-quality laboratory data. Over time, laboratory workflows and submission guidance often evolve in parallel, resulting in variability across programs, undocumented workarounds, and inconsistent messaging to providers.

As the laboratory prepares for and transitions to a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), there is a critical opportunity to examine current-state laboratory workflows and the provider-facing communication that supports them. Inefficiencies or ambiguities in either area can increase staff burden, delay testing and reporting, and negatively impact data quality for surveillance and public health response.

This project addresses a capacity gap in systematically documenting laboratory business processes while aligning provider-facing communication and submission guidance to those workflows. The work will support both internal operational improvement and external submitter understanding during a period of significant system change.

Methods

The intern may participate in the following tasks:

Business Process Evaluation

- Observe and document selected laboratory workflows across multiple programs (e.g., specimen submission, accessioning, data entry, result review, and reporting).
- Develop simple current-state process maps to illustrate how work is performed across departments.
- Identify common bottlenecks, redundancies, manual workarounds, and points of variability between programs.
- Engage laboratory and program staff to validate documented workflows and clarify process differences.

Provider and Submitter Communication Review

- Inventory existing provider-facing submission materials, including forms, guidance documents, job aids, and web content.
- Identify areas where submission guidance does not align with observed laboratory workflows or data needs.
- Review common causes of incomplete submissions or follow-up requests from laboratory staff.

Integration and Alignment

- Map key workflow steps to provider-facing requirements (e.g., required data elements, submission expectations).
- Draft or revise standardized submission guidance, checklists, or FAQs that align with documented workflows and anticipated LIMS processes.

- Ensure materials are written in clear, plain language and can be adapted across programs.

Collaboration and Exposure

- Participate in laboratory, epidemiology, and cross-program meetings as appropriate.
- Gain exposure to public health laboratory operations, interdepartmental coordination, and system implementation planning.

Expected Outcomes

By the conclusion of the internship, the project is expected to produce:

- Documented current-state workflows for selected laboratory business processes.
- Identification of process improvement opportunities that can inform LIMS configuration, training, and change management.
- A refined set of provider-facing submission materials aligned with laboratory workflows and data quality needs.
- Recommendations for maintaining consistent, scalable communication during and after LIMS implementation.

These deliverables will support operational efficiency, improve submitter experience, and contribute to higher-quality laboratory data for public health surveillance and response.

Required/preferred qualifications: *Students with experience in business process and provider communication/healthcare or professional aspiration for healthcare preferred.*

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required, though will largely be remote.*

Primary location: 305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

SPHL, Sequencing, Bioinformatics & Capacity Expansion Division
Phylogeographic Visualization of West Nile Virus in Massachusetts

Background

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne pathogen that infects humans and has no vaccines or direct treatments. In most cases, infected individuals remain asymptomatic or have mild symptoms, but severe illness can lead to permanent health effects or even death.

The Sequencing, Bioinformatics & Capacity Expansion Division at the MA Public Health Laboratory (SPHL) has sequenced over 1,000 West Nile virus samples from mosquito traps spanning the years 2017 through 2025. This pathogen genomic data is linked to line-level metadata providing ecological context in support of mosquito control and case management.

This uniquely large and rich dataset has the potential to advance our understanding of WNV spread through geographic regions, mosquito species, and ecological contexts within and between seasons.

Methods

- Identify and employ quality control thresholds for the WNV genomes.
- Use sequence alignment and phylogenetic tree methods to generate a phylogenetic tree of the WNV genomes.
- Assist in data cleaning and processing methods to prepare associated line-level metadata.
- Learn the Nextstrain platform to compile the WNV genomes and the associated line-level metadata variables into an interactive phylogeographic visualization of WNV spread through Massachusetts.
- Utilize the produced visualization to identify important variables and pathways for future analysis.

Expected Outcomes

- An informative and interactive visualization of West Nile virus spread through Massachusetts from 2017–2025. This visualization is both exploratory and itself a final product.
- Identification of important variables and pathways for future analysis based on the produced visualization.
- Internal presentation and potential to contribute to a high-impact publication.
- Skill development in quality control of genomic data, alignment of genomic data, phylogenetic tree generation, and visualization using the Nextstrain platform.
- Develop knowledge of WNV genomics and develop skills in data cleaning and processing, data visualization, phylogenetic analysis, phylogeographic analysis, ecology, and genomic epidemiology.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate or advanced Undergraduate majoring in computational biology, biostatistics, or computer science or related field preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Town of Tewksbury Health Department

Project Option 1: Community Health Data Snapshot and Priority Brief (Public Health Surveillance and Planning Project)

Background

The intern will support the Tewksbury Health Department in developing a concise, data-informed Community Health Data Snapshot to guide local public health planning, grant development, and community engagement efforts. This project will focus on translating existing public health data into practical insights that can be used by Health Department staff, municipal leadership, and community partners.

Methods

- Collecting, reviewing, and organizing relevant local, regional, and state public health data sources, including but not limited to MAVEN, Massachusetts Department of Public Health datasets, BRFSS, YRBSS, U.S. Census data, opioid and overdose surveillance reports, and communicable disease trend data as appropriate.
- Identifying and summarizing key health indicators relevant to the Town of Tewksbury, such as substance use trends, communicable disease patterns, mental and behavioral health indicators, housing instability, food access, aging population needs, and other social determinants of health.
- Analyzing trends over time and comparing local data to regional or state benchmarks where available to provide context.
- Translating complex data into clear, plain-language summaries and visual formats (charts, tables, infographics) suitable for non-technical audiences.
- Developing a brief priority summary highlighting three to five emerging or ongoing public health issues, including recommended focus areas for prevention, education, or policy attention.

Expected Outcomes

- A Community Health Data Snapshot document
- A short Public Health Priority Brief for internal planning and external communication
- Optional one-page “Public Health in Tewksbury” overview for use with residents, boards, or community partners

This project will provide the intern with hands-on experience in applied public health surveillance, data interpretation, and health communication. It will also strengthen the Health Department’s ability to respond efficiently to data requests, support grant applications, and communicate public health priorities in a clear and accessible way.

Project Option 2: Health Department Website Redesign and Public Health Information Enhancement

Background

The Health Department website serves as a primary point of contact between the public and the Health Department. It is a critical tool for communicating public health information, health education materials, permitting requirements, and emergency notifications. The current website structure and content are outdated and not optimized for accessibility, clarity, or ease of navigation.

Limited staff capacity restricts the Department's ability to regularly update content, reorganize information, and incorporate current public health guidance and educational resources. This project addresses a significant capacity gap by modernizing the website to better support health promotion, transparency, and community engagement.

Methods

- Conduct a review of the current Health Department website to identify outdated content, gaps, and usability issues.
- Research best practices and examples from comparable municipal and local health department websites.
- Inventory existing public health information and identify priority content areas (e.g., food safety, housing, wells, septic systems, communicable disease prevention).
- Assist in reorganizing website content to improve clarity, accessibility, and navigation.
- Develop draft written content and educational materials suitable for public-facing use.
- Coordinate with Health Department staff to ensure accuracy and alignment with state and local public health requirements.

Expected Outcomes

- A reorganized and updated website content framework will be completed.
- Draft public health education materials and informational webpages will be developed.
- The Health Department will have a sustainable, user-friendly structure to support ongoing website updates and health communication efforts.

Project Option 3: Support for FDA Food Retail Standards Implementation

Background

Implementation of the FDA Retail Food Program Standards is essential to ensuring food safety, reducing the risk of foodborne illness, and maintaining consistency with state and national best practices. The FDA Retail Food Program Standards include nine foundational program standards designed to strengthen local food protection programs through standardized procedures, training, quality improvement, and program evaluation.

Achieving and maintaining compliance with one or more of the nine FDA program standards requires dedicated staff time for assessment, documentation, and coordination. Due to limited staff capacity, the Tewksbury Health Department would benefit from intern support to advance progress toward meeting one of these standards in partnership with the Health Agent.

Methods

- Work directly with the Health Agent to support progress toward achieving **one of the nine FDA Retail Food Program Standards**, as identified by the Health Department.
- Review FDA Retail Food Program Standards and associated self-assessment tools and guidance documents.
- Assist in collecting, organizing, and reviewing documentation required to demonstrate conformance with the selected standard.
- Support completion of program self-assessment materials related to the selected standard.

- Compile and organize food safety policies, procedures, inspection records, training documentation, or quality assurance materials, as applicable.
- Assist with preparation of internal reference materials to support ongoing compliance and continuous quality improvement.

Expected Outcomes

- Progress will be made toward achieving or strengthening compliance with **one FDA Retail Food Program Standard**.
- Required documentation and supporting materials for the selected standard will be organized and readily available.
- The Health Department's capacity to implement and sustain FDA Retail Food Program Standards will be enhanced.
- The Health Agent will be supported in advancing a key component of the local food protection program.

Project Option 4: Development of a Local Well Regulation

Background

The intern will support the Health Department in the research and drafting of a proposed **local well regulation** for the Town of Tewksbury. Tewksbury does not currently have a local well regulation. This creates gaps in oversight related to water quality testing, well construction, maintenance, and protection. Developing a local well regulation will strengthen environmental health protections, safeguard drinking water quality, and align Tewksbury with best practices used by surrounding municipalities. Due to the research-intensive nature of policy development, additional capacity is needed to advance this effort.

Methods

- Research existing private well regulations from surrounding and comparable municipalities.
- Review Massachusetts state regulations and guidance related to private wells.
- Conduct a comparative analysis highlighting best practices, similarities, and differences across municipalities.
- Assist in drafting proposed local well regulation language tailored to Tewksbury's needs.
- Support internal review, discussion, and revision of the draft regulation with Health Department staff.

Expected Outcomes

- A comparative analysis of surrounding town well regulations will be completed.
- A draft local well regulation will be developed for Board of Health consideration.
- The Health Department will be positioned to advance stronger protections for private drinking water supplies.

Project Option 5: Substance Use Disorder Prevention

Background

The Tewksbury Health Department works in partnership with the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) on a grant focused on substances most often first used by youth—alcohol, cannabis, and nicotine—through a trauma-informed health equity lens. Understanding the

underlying factors that contribute to youth substance use is essential for effective prevention and early intervention.

This project addresses capacity needs by supporting prevention planning, regional collaboration, and evidence-based strategies aimed at reducing youth substance use and related harms.

Methods

- Participate as an active member of a regional behavioral health working group.
- Collaborate with surrounding communities to build capacity and plan prevention strategies focused on youth substance use.
- Assist in the development of Social Norms and Social Marketing campaigns using Positive Community Norms (PCN) principles.
- Investigate grant opportunities related to substance use prevention.
- Research opportunities for policy change related to youth exposure to substance advertising.
- Review evidence-based Social Emotional Learning (SEL) programs suitable for school settings.
- Gain exposure to regional behavioral health collaborations and professional networking opportunities.

Expected Outcomes

- Prevention planning materials and campaign concepts will be developed.
- Research summaries related to policy, grants, or SEL programming will be completed.
- The Health Department's substance use prevention capacity will be strengthened through regional collaboration and evidence-based strategies.
- The intern will gain applied experience in public health prevention, health equity, and behavioral health systems.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate students, undergraduate students with some health background (e.g., at least one semester of public health courses) preferred.

This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.

Primary location: 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA, 01876

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

UMass Marieb College of Nursing Local Public Health Nurse Consultant (LPHNC)
Program

Maternal & Child Health Equity Internship – Public Health Nursing

Background

The LPHNC Program was established to dynamically support the Office of Regional and Local Health in carrying out the recommendations of the Commission's *Blueprint* to build the capacity of the local Public Health Nursing workforce. Responsibilities of the PHN Consultants include Public Health Nursing consultation, leading targeted workgroups, and expanding access to Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS; see Commission report and <https://phaboard.org/center-for-innovation/public-health-frameworks/the-foundational-public-health-services/>). One particular aim of the LPHNC Program is to build capacity among local PHNs around the FPHS area of Maternal, Child, and Family Health.

Massachusetts continues to experience persistent inequities in maternal morbidity, maternal mortality, infant mortality, and preterm birth, despite robust healthcare infrastructure and public health investment. These inequities disproportionately affect Black, Brown, immigrant, rural, and low-income families, particularly those insured through MassHealth.

State data from the MA Advancing Health Equity Maternal & Perinatal Health initiative show that Black birthing people are several times more likely to experience pregnancy associated mortality and severe maternal morbidity than White counterparts, with Hispanic Latina families also facing elevated risk. Families insured through MassHealth and those in under-resourced or rural communities experience disproportionately poorer outcomes. Many adverse outcomes are preventable and driven by structural, social, and system-level factors, highlighting the need for equity centered data analysis.

These data are critical to inform, build and sustain capacity within the program initiatives, educating the PHN workforce, and creating PHN tools with emphasis on Maternal Child and Family Health.

Methods

The student will:

- Review and synthesize Massachusetts maternal and infant health data (e.g., maternal morbidity and mortality, infant outcomes).
- Apply an equity lens to data, stratifying race/ethnicity, geography, and insurance status when available.
- Assist with interviews or surveys of Public Health Nurses and MCH organizations (WIC, Early Childhood Interventions, Daycares) to identify priority MCH issues, promising practices, and gaps.
- Help map community-based maternal-child health resources and identify referral gaps.
- Contribute to development of PHN-ready tools such as screening checklists, conversation guides, and referral templates.

Expected Outcomes

- Provide tools and resources that can be adapted across municipalities and Shared Service Arrangements, supporting regional collaboration, workforce development, and long-term sustainability of MCH equity efforts.
- Creation of a practice-focused MCH Equity Playbook aligned with Foundational Public Health Services and SAPHE 2.0.

Required/preferred qualifications: MPH or graduate student with interest in public health, maternal-child health, or health policy; data-related skills (e.g., biostatistics, SAS, R); knowledge in Excel; strong skills in literature review, writing, and synthesis; and comfortable working independently with structured mentorship preferred.

This internship is a **hybrid/remote** with virtual meetings; some in-person work will be required.

Primary location: 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Amherst, MA 01003

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Town of Walpole
Reducing Youth Substance Use

Background

Throughout this internship, the goal of the preceptor role is to expose the chosen intern to all things local public health. Because the umbrella of public health is broad, the internship will shift focus throughout its duration to provide exposure to the various responsibilities overseen by the health department. The intern will be responsible for completing a variety of on-your-time public health trainings and will also take on the role of shadowing the town's deputy health agent and public health nurse on various inspections (camps, pools, housing, septic, food etc.). The internship will allow the ability to interact with employees within the municipality as well as members of the community through educational outreach.

The Town of Walpole was awarded the Drug Free Community grant through the CDC back in 2024. With the funding awarded, the Town was able to hire a full-time Program Director to conduct youth prevention work in the community. The intern will have the opportunity to collaborate with the Program Director to engage the youth population and develop effective programming that is well received by students. Additional responsibilities will include assisting the Program Director to find community trends pertaining to youth substance use. Some of the internship will be used to review substances used in the community (tobacco, vapes, Kratom, etc) as well as identified products that should not be sold per local and state regulations. As the availability of such products has expanded in recent years, maintaining awareness of products offered for sale within the community is a priority for the local health department. Educational efforts will also focus on ensuring permit holders understand their responsibilities and remain in compliance with all applicable regulations.

Methods

- Evaluate current local and state regulations.
- Work with health director regarding tobacco outreach. Reach out to tobacco permit holders to provide education.
- Work with Drug Free Community (DFC) program director to survey youth and work with community partners (schools, police, etc.) to determine which programs could be effective to reduce youth substance use.

Expected Outcomes

- Documenting that outreach/education to our tobacco permit holders has occurred.
- Creation of idea/implementation of substance prevention programming, working with the Drug Free Community (DFC) program director.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 135 School Street Walpole, MA 02081

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

Town of Webster Health Department

Background

The Webster Health Department faces several environmental and public health challenges that impact community well-being. This internship will provide hands-on experience while supporting capacity-building efforts in priority areas. The intern(s) will have the option to select one primary project topic from the following:

1. **Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs):** Develop a communication plan to raise awareness and prevent exposure.
2. **Vacant & Foreclosed Properties:** Research and propose an implementation plan for monitoring and mitigation.
3. **Illegal Dumping & Overflowing Trash:** Develop strategies and messaging to address improper disposal in areas without curbside pickup.

Our department has limited resources for proactive monitoring and public outreach in these areas. This internship aims to strengthen capacity through research, planning, and communication strategies while providing the intern(s) with practical public health experience.

Methods

The intern(s) will:

- Select one primary project topic and complete related tasks such as:
 - Literature review and data collection.
 - Stakeholder interviews or community input.
 - Development of communication materials, workflows, or implementation plans.
- Participate in shadowing opportunities with inspectors in the field, which may include:
 - Food safety inspections.
 - Housing inspections.
 - Pool and bathing beach inspections.
 - Other environmental health activities.

This combination of project work and field experience will provide a comprehensive understanding of public health operations.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the internship (160 hours, 15–20 hours/week), the intern will:

- Deliver a project-specific product, such as:
 - A communication plan and message toolkit.
 - An SOP or monitoring framework.
 - Public guidance materials and reporting workflows.
- Gain practical experience through shadowing inspections and observing regulatory processes.
- Present a summary report or briefing of findings and recommendations during Board of Health meeting.

Sample Timeline

- Weeks 1–2: Orientation, topic selection, initial research, and shadowing schedule.

- Weeks 3–6: Project development (draft materials, workflows, or plans) and continued field shadowing.
- Weeks 7–8: Finalize deliverables and prepare summary report.
- Week 9–10: Presentation and handoff of materials.

Required/preferred qualifications: *Students with knowledge in Excel and data-related skills (e.g., biostatistics, SAS, R) preferred.*

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 350 Main Street, Webster MA 01568

Additional hours (exceeding 160) are permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

City of Worcester Division of Public Health

Project 1: Health Department Strategic Plan and Operations

Background

The City of Worcester Division of Public Health (WDPH) has recently undergone reaccreditation by the National Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) and received feedback and recommendations from site reviewers to improve our existing operations.

To strengthen and enhance our operations, we will consider this feedback and incorporate actionable measures into several foundational plans, including the WDPH Strategic Plan, Performance Management Plan, and Workforce Development Plan. We seek a critical thinker with strong attention to detail to assist with this process. The student intern will gain knowledge of national public health best practices while helping implement measures to better serve our residents.

Methods

By leveraging the comprehensive PHAB reaccreditation site visit report, the intern will review the gaps identified in the report against our existing plans. Some feedback may be straightforward to address, while other items may require additional research on best practices that can be tailored to our infrastructure and capacity. The intern will work directly with the Deputy Director, in collaboration with the team, to incorporate findings into our existing written plans. The intern will have the opportunity to meet with key division staff and external stakeholders through meetings and events. The student is expected to participate in at least one summer community engagement effort to interact with and experience the City's diverse residents. Steps may include:

- Review source materials: Read the PHAB reaccreditation site visit report and gather current plans and related documentation.
- Identify gaps: List report-identified gaps and compare each one to what is already addressed in existing plans.
- Categorize actions: Flag items as (a) straightforward updates or (b) items needing additional research and best-practice review.
- Research best practices: For items needing research, identify evidence-based approaches that fit the City's infrastructure and capacity.
- Draft plan revisions: Propose clear edits to existing written plans that address gaps and incorporate tailored best practices.
- Coordinate review: Meet regularly with the Deputy Director and collaborate with the team to refine revisions and align on approach.
- Engage stakeholders: Meet with key division staff and external stakeholders (via meetings/events) to confirm feasibility.
- Finalize and document: Incorporate feedback, finalize plan updates, and document changes made in response to the PHAB report.

Expected Outcomes

At the end of the summer internship at least 2 of 3 of the aforementioned operational plans should be enhanced by including PHAB recommendations or appropriate best practices. Ideally, the updated plans will be formatted and polished and ready for publication.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate or MPH preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 25 Meade Street, Worcester, MA 01610

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.

City of Worcester Division of Public Health
Project 2: Healthy Air, Healthy Communities

Background

Healthy Air, Healthy Communities is a year-long pilot air quality monitoring initiative led by the City of Worcester Division of Public Health (WDPH) from January 5, 2026, through January 4, 2027. The project will deploy twenty-five outdoor PurpleAir sensors across higher education campuses, municipal buildings, and community organizations located in environmental justice neighborhoods.

Sensors will collect continuous, publicly accessible data on fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), temperature, and humidity to characterize hyper-local air quality conditions and identify spatial and seasonal trends. Findings will inform evidence-based public health messaging, policy development, and community engagement through public data sharing on the PurpleAir platform and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Fire and Smoke Map.

This initiative represents Worcester's first localized air quality monitoring effort and supports WDPH's priority focus on climate and environmental health, particularly given asthma rates among Worcester adults and youth that exceed the Massachusetts state average.

Methods

The intern will:

- Download, clean, and briefly analyze temperature, humidity, and PM 2.5 data from all 25 sensors weekly Produce a weekly brief internal report to be sent to Healthy Air, Healthy Communities leadership identifying trends, anomalies in the data, and any areas of concerns.
- Develop a monthly report that can be sent to the community Assist in helping develop community outreach material such as videos, flyers, and posters

Expected Outcomes

Through this placement, the intern will gain hands-on experience in the implementation and evaluation of a municipal public health pilot program, with particular emphasis on the intersection of climate, the built environment, and community health.

Project deliverables will include a comprehensive final report synthesizing collected data, analytical methods, key findings, and potential environmental drivers of observed trends. Time permitting, the intern will also contribute to the development of community outreach and education materials to support public awareness and engagement.

Required/preferred qualifications: Graduate or MPH preferred.

*This internship is a **hybrid** position, meaning some in-person work will be required.*

Primary location: 25 Meade Street, Worcester, MA 01610

Additional hours (exceeding 160) may be permitted if required for school requirements. Please note, you will only be paid for 160 hours of practicum experience.