

INTERNSHIP

LOCAL HEALTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**Bureau of Infectious Disease and
Laboratory Sciences**

Summer 2021



Local Health Internship Program

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (MDPH) Division of Epidemiology is seeking graduate students to intern remotely for local health departments during the summer of 2021 (approximately May 24 – August 13). The number of placements has been reduced due to the ongoing work by local health departments on the COVID-19 pandemic.

The applicant must commit to a minimum of 160 hours during the summer but may work more hours as required for school practicums pending prior agreement with their internship supervisor.

The applicant must have completed at least one semester of graduate level public health course work preferably including, but not limited to, one course each in epidemiology, environmental health, and biostatistics. Occasionally, exceptional undergraduate applications have been accepted, but graduate students are given priority consideration. Clinical experience and/or prior work experience is a plus but is not required. Applicants must be able to communicate effectively in English.

The student will be required to attend both an orientation program and the closing session held virtually. On the closing day, each student will be required to present their work to fellow interns, local public health agents and MDPH representatives summarizing his or her experience.

The opportunities are:

- **MDPH Division of Epidemiology: COVID-19 Internship (*Multiple Placements*)**
- **MDPH Division of Epidemiology: Zoonotic Disease**
- **Mansfield Health Department (Bristol County)**
- **Bedford Board of Health (Middlesex County)**

Details for each position are included in this document. Applications can be submitted online at the link below. In the application, please rank the internships by your preference so that we can match candidates to the best placement.

[Apply Here.](#)

If you have any difficulties submitting this form, you can send the requested information and materials to Kayleigh Sandhu at kayleigh.sandhu@mass.gov.

This application is due by 11:59pm on Wednesday, March 17th, 2021. Candidates will be notified of their status in early April via email.

MDPH Division of Epidemiology: COVID-19

Boston, MA (Remote) – Multiple Placements

Data analysis; Data Management; Surveillance Case Investigation and Interviews

The Pandemic Response Team within the MDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory sciences is accepting applications for a student intern to assist on retrospective analysis on metrics related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This work would include case interviews for variant strains detected in Massachusetts, a retrospective analysis of the data collected through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Epi-X flight exposure surveillance system, identification and analysis of cases that meet 'reinfection' criteria, and more. The accepting candidate would support COVID-19 work in the Division by working on the needs of the Pandemic Response Team, participating in COVID-19 morbidity activities, and working with Subject Matter Experts to assist with guidance document and SOP development.

The preferred candidate will have an interest in infectious disease and investigations at the state or local health level, excellent communication skills, and the ability to collaborate while also taking individual initiative on assignments. Experience with SAS and communicating with healthcare professionals and the public would be a benefit.

Estimated days/hours: 15-20 hours/week.

Primary Location: While the Division of Epidemiology is located at 305 South Street in Boston, the internship would be remote in observation of student safety, and in alignment with a late-summer renovation of the MA State Public Health Laboratory.

MDPH Division of Epidemiology: Zoonotic Disease

Boston, MA (Remote) – One Placement

Data analysis; GIS Mapping; Health Education Planning and Implementation

The Zoonotic Disease Program within the MDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences is accepting applications for a student intern to assist with disease investigation and analyses of endemic tickborne diseases. The accepted candidate may also work on other zoonotic disease projects included but not limited to arboviral disease, rabies, emerging pathogens, and GIS mapping.

The candidate would also work on an existing tickborne disease health education program targeted at students in grades 3-8. The candidate would work to enhance existing materials and create new materials. This program is an exciting break from traditional risk messaging, utilizing student's natural interest in science to convey risk messaging. MDPH has rolled this program out to 40 cities and towns and is looking to update materials and improve coordination of activities between participating communities.

The preferred candidate will have an interest in zoonotic disease and health education. Experience with SAS, GIS, and knowledge of graphic design would be a benefit.

Estimated days/hours: 15-20 hours/week.

Primary Location: While the Division of Epidemiology is located at 305 South Street in Boston, the internship would be remote in observation of student safety, and in alignment with a late-summer renovation of the MA State Public Health Laboratory.

Mansfield Health Department (Bristol County)

Mansfield, MA (Remote) – One Placement

Emergency Preparedness; Environmental Health; Food Safety; Health Education

The Mansfield Health Department serves a community of approximately 23,500. An intern will assist with the Board of Health's (BOH) 2021 goal of increasing outreach and education on local public health, emerging health topics, and departmental daily operations to the general community. The ideal candidate will have some experience in Health Education and Outreach. The possible tasks for the intern(s) include:

- Research best practices/conduct environmental scan of specific strategies used to promote local public health throughout the Commonwealth and nationally and make recommendations.
- Create a toolkit incorporating information on a wide variety of routine and emerging public health topics, including educational material, local outreach activities and social media messaging that can be carried out by the Health Agent or BOH members.
- Create a calendar of specific health topics to highlight on the website seasonally or monthly
- Identify and assemble information to be disseminated at town events focusing on Mansfield Health Department services.
- Design and publish a monthly public health newsletter with collaboration from the Health Department, Community EMS, BOH, and state-wide organizations.
- Explore opportunities within local organization and municipal departments to partner and promote local public health services and healthy lifestyles in town.
- Review the town drafted Master Plan to identify possible alignment with health department activities and make recommendations
- Obtain feedback and incorporate suggestions from health agent, staff, and board.

The final project will be a "This is Local Public Health" toolkit including templates, educational information, literature, and best practices to promote the role of local public health in municipal government. It will be shared with organizations working with local public health and surrounding health departments.

Estimated days/hours: 15-20 hours per week.

Primary Location: Remote Internship. Physical address is 6 Park Row, Mansfield, MA.

Bedford Board of Health (Middlesex County)

Bedford, MA (Remote Optional) – One Placement

Data Entry and Analysis; Disease Case Follow-Up; Food Safety; Health Education; Inspections; Mental Health; Surveillance

The Bedford Board of Health is seeking an intern for an assessment project (looking at data), as well as to assist with some additional food safety and community surveillance activities. The ideal candidate will have an interest in data analysis, public health, and outreach work. If the student were interested, there is an opportunity to be placed in a secure, single-person, office on site pursuant to the office safety measures of the Town.

Projects include the following:

Mental Health Services Assessment. The town has implemented a transportation program to pay for transportation to and from mental health services appointments. The intern will assist with assessing the program and identifying variables that influence citizen participation and uptake through data collection and analysis. This assessment will identify possible changes to program implementation and promotion.

Community Surveillance Activities. The intern will be trained in and assist in several surveillance and inspection related activities including low risk food inspections, CBD product community surveillance, and tobacco compliance checks. The intern will have the opportunity to shadow several other public health enforcement activities and assist with tick and communicable disease related work.

Estimated days/hours: 12–20 hours /week.

Primary Location: Remote Internship, in-person work is optional for the candidate. Physical address is 12 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA.

Resources

- [Summer 2021 Application](#)
 - [Internships at MDPH](#)
 - [Local Health Internship at Local Public Health Institute of MA](#)
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