

Bureau of Infectious Disease and  
Laboratory Sciences

**Local Health**  
**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

**Summer 2022**

**INTERNSHIP**





## Local Health Internship Program

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (MDPH) Division of Epidemiology is seeking graduate students to intern in local health departments during the summer of 2022.

The selected students will work on various projects within local 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.

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. 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.

The student will be required to attend both an orientation program and the closing session. On the closing day, each student will be required to provide an oral or poster presentation for fellow interns, local public health agents and MDPH representatives summarizing his or her 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 (Estimated time frame: May 18, 2022 – August 11, 2022). Students may work more hours as required for school practicums pending prior agreement with their internship supervisor.

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



**The opportunities are:**

- Barnstable County Department of Health
- Bedford Health Department
- Belmont Health Department
- Canton Health Department
- Dedham Health Department
- Easton Board of Health
- Hardwick Board of Health
- Hopkinton Health Department
- Mansfield Health Department
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Healthcare Associated Infections/Antibiotic Resistance Program
- Melrose Health Department
- Needham Health Department
- Northborough/Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health
- Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative
- Wakefield Health and Human Services
- Walpole Health Department

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](mailto:kayleigh.sandhu@mass.gov).

**This application is due by 11:59pm on Sunday, March 27th, 2022.**

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# Barnstable County Department of Public Health Nursing Division (Barnstable County)

**Barnstable, MA (Hybrid: remote and in-person) – One placement**

*Community Health, Data Analysis, Disease Case Follow-up, Outbreak Investigation, Health Education*

The Barnstable County Department of Public Health and Environment works together to protect and promote a healthy Cape Cod community through disease prevention and control, health and safety education, environmental protection, and emergency preparedness. The Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment's ideal student intern is someone that is comfortable going out into the community, making connections, and providing education in a variety of locations. Fluency in Portuguese is preferred. The possible tasks of the intern(s) include:

- Explore different avenues of outreach to vulnerable populations. Prior to the pandemic, public health nurses would go to food pantries to serve as a medical resource to those in need. The food pantries are now all drive-through.
- Deliver public health messaging to vulnerable populations.
- Provide health education at farmer's markets surrounding tick-borne disease prevention.

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

**Primary location:** 3195 Main Street, Barnstable, MA 02633 (hybrid)



# Bedford Health Department (Middlesex County)

## Bedford, MA (Hybrid: remote and in-person) – One placement

*COVID-19, Community health, Data Entry, Analysis, and Management, Disease Case Follow-up, Outbreak Investigation, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Health, Food Safety, Nutrition, GIS/Mapping, Health Education, Health Policy, Needs Assessment, Substance Abuse*

The Bedford Health Department is looking for a student intern for the summer of 2022. The possible task(s) of the intern include:

- Research and design educational outreach materials for prevention activities such as tick and mosquito borne disease, hoarding, mental health, sun exposure, food borne illness, vaping, hoarding, COVID-19,
- Create educational materials to educate the public and property managers on best practices in improving indoor air quality in multi-unit housing complexes. Topics may include tenant pesticide use, smoking or vaping, and chronic dampness.
- COVID-19 contact tracing.
- Assist with the management of the weekly Bedford Food Bank.
- Conduct a Community Needs Assessment
- Review all death records during a specific timeframe to determine the leading cause of death, then evaluate this data to determine any potential trends.
- Create educational materials for property managers to share with residents who are in need of low- income services.
- Emergency Preparedness – collect information of business in town. This information will be used in case of emergency.
- Emergency Preparedness - create educational materials for residents on how to prepare an emergency kit.
- Conduct low risk food establishment inspections and re-inspections.
- Conduct other environmental health related inspections and re-inspections such as recreational camps for children, swimming pools, hotel/motel, barns/animals, etc..
- Assist with updating Board of Health Regulations
- Attend monthly Board of Health meetings to provide updates on work.
- Assist the Health Department with the FDA Voluntary Retail Food Program Standards.
- Additional projects that may be of specific interest to the intern

**Estimated Days/Hours:** 15-20 hours per week.

**Primary Location:** 12 Mudge Way, Bedford, MA 01730



# Belmont Health Department (Middlesex County)

Belmont, MA (Hybrid: remote and in-person) – One placement

*Environmental Health, Food Safety, COVID-19, Data Entry, Analysis, and Management, Health Education*

The Belmont Health Department seeks an intern with general knowledge of public health, as well as someone who has experience working with the public. The intern will likely have the following tasks:

- Work closely with the assistant director to conduct environmental health inspections of food service establishments, housing, pools, and camps
- Investigate complaints about rodents and wildlife, research topics in public health, etc.
- Create a health education campaign (creating a public awareness campaign about local public health/health department initiatives, or providing information about mosquito-borne disease, fall prevention, or other current public health topics)
- Conduct a data analysis of food code violations or nuisance complaints.

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

**Primary location:** Homer Building, 19 Moore Street, 2nd Floor, P.O. Box 56, Belmont, MA 02478  
(Work will be primarily in an office setting with ability for some hours of remote work).



# Canton Health Department (Norfolk County)

## Canton, MA (In-person) – One placement

*Data Entry, Analysis, and Management, Community Health, Environmental Health, Needs Assessment, Substance Abuse*

Canton Health Department is working to perform a comprehensive needs assessment of public health needs within the Canton Community. This project will form the basis of a targeted framework upon which the department can then collaborate and direct efforts to develop and employ strategies that will provide the strongest benefits to the overall health and safety of the community. Through this internship the department will garner current and relevant data regarding the status of Canton as the community landscape has shifted over recent years and in-particular with emphasis on changes occurring throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The summer intern may assist in the following projects:

- Conduct surveys/analysis identify current public health needs in the Canton community.
- Design and conduct in-person and virtual surveys to capture a representative sample of the Canton community population.
- Analyze and assimilate a working priority list that targets the greatest public health concerns for canton.

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

**Primary location:** 79 Pleasant St, Canton, MA 02021



# Dedham Health Department (Norfolk County)

**Dedham, MA (Hybrid: Remote and In-person) – One placement**

*Food Safety, Health Education, Community Health, Environmental Health, Health Policy*

Dedham Health Department seeks an intern with strong research, computer, and communication skills. The ideal candidate has experience in health education and outreach. The Dedham Health Department is seeking a graduate intern to assist with up to three major projects including:

- Educational outreach to businesses about food safety, public health regulation updating, and educating the community about emerging public health topics.
- Assist with the creation of educational resources and training opportunities for food establishments around food safety.
- Research regulations in comparable communities for the purposes of amending local public health regulations in Town.
- Create a list of emerging public health topics to disseminate to the public on the Health Department website and social media channels on a regular basis.
- Opportunities to shadow public health inspections and enforcement activities.

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

**Primary location:** Dedham Town Hall, 450 Washington Street, Dedham, MA 02026



# Easton Board of Health (Bristol County)

**Easton, MA (Remote and in-person) – One placement**

*Community Health, Data Entry, Analysis, and Management, Health Education, Health Policy, Needs Assessment, Environmental Health*

The Easton Board of Health (BOH) is looking for a summer 2022 intern. The ideal candidate will have completed coursework in Entomology and Health Communication. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) is an extremely rare but serious and often fatal infection. It is spread by the bite of a mosquito infected with EEE. In Massachusetts, the virus is most often identified in mosquitoes found in and around freshwater, hardwood swamps. To help mitigate spread of areas where EEE is identified Massachusetts has allowed for aerial spraying. In 2021 communities were given the right to opt out of aerial spraying. The intern would likely participate in activities related to health education surrounding EEE and aerial spraying. The successful candidate would be exposed to LBOH operations as well as interfacing with Bristol County Mosquito Control and DPH. Some of the tasks the intern may be responsible for include:

- Research how the community feels at large about aerial spraying.
- Provide outreach to the community about aerial spraying and the risk of EEE.
- Develop a needs assessment to assess current knowledge of EEE: the risks, prevention strategies and resources available.

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

**Primary location:** 126 Elm Street, North Easton, MA 02356 (hybrid)



# Hardwick Board of Health (Worcester County)

**Hardwick, MA (Hybrid: remote and in-person) – One placement**

*COVID-19, Community Health, Disease Case Follow-up, Outbreak Investigation, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Health, Food Safety, GIS/Mapping, Health Education, Health Policy, Needs Assessment, Substance Abuse, Nutrition, Collaboration and Resource Development*

The Hardwick Board of Health (BOH) is looking for a student summer 2022 intern. The ideal candidate will have an interest in rural health. The possible task(s) of the intern include:

- Work with affected towns after the closing of their local hospital. The intern could work with the town of Ware and represent Hardwick in committee meetings on the future of Marylane property. These meetings are with state development/real estate officials and developers as well as other stakeholders. The aim of these meetings is to come up with solutions for ambulatory services in their town and surrounding communities.
- Tickborne illness health education and outreach to the community.

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

**Primary location:** 307 Main Street PO Box 575, Gilbertville, MA 01031 (hybrid)



# Hopkinton Health Department (Middlesex County)

## Hopkinton, MA (Remote and in-person) – One placement

*Data Entry, Analysis, and Management, Environmental Health, Health Education, PFOS/PFOA Risk Communication*

The town of Hopkinton Health Department is looking for an exemplary undergraduate or graduate student that has experience in environmental health that would be interested in assisting the Town of Hopkinton with the development of PFOS/PFOA source and relative risk communications for our residents. During the summer of 2021, PFOS/PFOA chemicals were identified in the Town of Hopkinton's water supply. The chemicals have since been identified in several other potable water supply wells in the community. The potential project(s) the intern would have the opportunity to work on include:

- Opportunities to work with the DPW on treatment system installation/design review/etc. The communications could be later shared throughout the region.
- Develop health education materials related to PFOS/PFOA.
- Help to complete a Phase I ESA of the various well areas to help identify potential sources of contamination.
- Investigate groundwater data trends for the region and forecasts from the EPA/MDEP/chemical industry and illustrate when/if this local and regional issue might be mitigated.

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

**Primary location:** 18 Main Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748 (hybrid)



# Mansfield Health Department (Bristol County)

**Mansfield, MA (Hybrid: remote and in-person) – One placement**

*COVID-19, Data Analysis, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Health, Health Education, Food Safety, Needs Assessment*

The Mansfield Health Department serves a community of approximately 23,500. The ideal intern will be someone interested in local public health and environmental health. The intern will have the opportunity to assist the Board of Health in:

- Data management, assessment and education in food safety, septic systems, and household hazardous wastes (HHW).
- Shadow work done within the department.

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

**Primary Location:** 6 Park Row, Mansfield, MA 02048 (hybrid position)



# MDPH Division of Epidemiology: Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antibiotic Resistance Program (HAI/AR) (Suffolk County)

**Boston, MA (Remote) – One placement**

*Health Education, Healthcare Associated Infections, Antibiotic Resistance, Infectious Disease, Epidemiology*

MDPH's Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antibiotic Resistance Program (HAI/AR) within the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Science's Division of Epidemiology is seeking an intern to focus on health education activities. The preferred candidate has some social/behavioral sciences classes, experience/interest in health education and experience working in a healthcare setting, if possible.

The main projects would be:

- Researching and compiling educational toolkits, which could be sent out to healthcare facilities when they are experiencing a Multi-Drug Resistant Organism (MDRO) situation, such as:
  - “Bug in a Box Bulletin Boards” —educational material for common MDROs that can be sent to facilities and posted on a bulletin board for staff education.
  - "New MDRO in Your Facility, What Should You Do?"
  - "There is Confirmed MDRO Transmission in Your Facility, Now What?"
  - "Glo-Germ Games" --How to use Glo-Germ as an educational tool & games you can play with your staff
  - Norovirus & c. difficile toolkits (disease information and focusing on the importance of handwashing)
  - Additional Resources for Staff, Patients & Families
- Creating a calendar of HAI/AR-related health months/weeks/days (ex. U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week) that could be publicized in newsletters and/or on social media.

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

**Primary location:** Remote only; team is based at the MA State Public Health Lab at 305 South Street Jamaica Plain, MA 02130



# Melrose Health Department (Middlesex County)

## Melrose, MA (In-person) – One placement

*Community Health, Data Entry, Analysis, and Management, Food Safety, Health Education, Health Policy*

The Melrose Health Department is looking for an intern for the summer of 22'. The ideal candidate will be a graduate student in a Public Health field. Some potential projects the intern would work on include:

- Work with the Sr. Health Inspector on reviewing, updating the rules and regulations and/ or city health ordinances. The final changes would be submitted to the Board of Health.
- Collaborate with the Public Health Specialist on the setup of a new coalition for substance abuse and raising Health awareness in the community.
- Develop youth-based projects for the Melrose/Wakefield communities.
- Update the Health Department webpage.
- Help the Animal Control Officer on Community Education and Events.
- Organize data management in the MIIS system.

**Estimated days/hours:** 15-20 hours per week (preferred availability: Monday-Thursday 9AM-2PM)

**Primary location:** Melrose City Hall, 562 Main Street, Melrose, MA 02176



# Needham Health Department (Norfolk County)

## Needham, MA (Hybrid: remote and in-person) – One placement

*Community Health, Data Entry, Analysis, and Management, Environmental Health, Food Safety, Nutrition, Health Education, Health Policy*

The Needham Public Health Division has applied for a grant from federal Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) to help to improve our food safety inspection processes and procedures. This grant funding will support the Public Health Division in its efforts to meet the FDA's Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (VNRFRPS).

As part of this grant project, the intern will assist the Needham Public Health Division's Environmental Team with the following:

- Inform and educate restaurant permit holders, including owners and managers, and the public at-large about food safety and nutrition by developing fact sheets, brochures, presentations, and social media messages.
- Assist in documentation, development, and maintenance of food safety inspection protocols to help Needham in meeting the FDA's nine Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards. Collaborate with a food safety consultant to coordinate audits to meet remaining standards.
- Assist the Public Health Division staff in developing grant applications and preparing submissions to additional funding opportunities.
- Implement a pilot program for an internal food grading system to determine its effectiveness, with the help of Food Code Pro consultants. Coordinate trainings and develop educational handouts for food establishment owners on food grading criteria.
- Collaborate with Needham's Environmental Health Agent to coordinate our annual Food Safety Advisory Board meeting, comprised of food service establishments, industry experts, and the general public.
- Plan and organize, in collaboration with Needham's food service establishments, our third annual 'Nutritionally Needham Healthy Eating Month,' to raise awareness of the connection between food choices, health, and the environment.
- Assist the Public Health Division in the revision of Needham Farmers' Market permit applications, collection of permit fees, education of vendors on proper food safety protocols, and weekly market inspections.
- Assist in inspecting and permitting a wide range of food establishments under the supervision of the Assistant Public Health Director and Environmental Health Agent.
- Actively collaborate with other local town and state departments on community outreach projects to tackle local public health challenges (i.e. excessive pesticide usage).
- Shadow inspectors to investigate violations of local and state regulations relating to food, nuisance (noise/odors), tobacco, housing, swimming pools, and septic systems.
- Review existing Board of Health regulations and/or develop public health policies, to ensure regulations are up to date.

The ideal candidate will have a B.S. in Environmental Health or related field or first year of graduate school in field of public/environmental health or related field.

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

**Primary location:** Rosemary Recreational Complex at 178 Rosemary St., Needham, MA 02494.



# Northborough/Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health (Worcester County)

**Northborough, MA (Hybrid: remote and in-person) – One placement**

*COVID-19, Community Health, Data Entry, Analysis, and Management, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Health, Food Safety, Health Education, Substance Abuse*

The Northborough/Greater Boroughs Partnership for Health seeks a summer intern with an overall interest in project, a good attitude, and a strong work ethic. The project(s) that the intern may work on include:

- **Regulatory Review.** The Northborough Board of Health has several outdated local Board of Health regulations in particular animal keeping, tobacco, and Title 5. The intern will review existing local public health regulations and select 1-3 regulations of interest to update or develop a new regulation and present to the Board of Health. This project will include researching federal, state, and local regulations and providing recommendations to the board and will include networking with other local public health departments. The project may include a review of the Board of Health Fee Schedule.
- **Be Well Northborough Campaign.** The town is launching a new health and wellness campaign in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The intern will work with various town departments and schools to promote existing programs and assist with research and development for new resources and programs and other outreach activities to improve health and wellness in our community. Topics may include mental health, vaccination, emergency preparedness, food insecurity, obesity, and substance use prevention.
- **Public Health Nursing.** We have a new shared services program. The intern may work with public health nurses to develop programming, assist with vaccination, and Fall flu clinic planning and wellness clinics at senior centers.

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

**Primary location:** 63 Main St., Northborough, MA 01532



# Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative (Berkshire County)

**Lee, MA (Hybrid: remote and in-person) – One placement**

*Data Entry, Analysis, and Management, Community Health, COVID-19, Disease Case Follow-up, Environmental Health, Food Safety, Needs Assessment, Health Education*

The Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative seeks a candidate that would be able to work remotely but also be available to come out for a day at a time, maybe 2-3 times per month. The intern would be working to:

- Survey of public health department websites and social media presence and provide recommendations for improving our department's sites
- Review socioeconomic and health outcomes data for the area and identify areas of inequity for possible local public health interventions
- Review health education resources available from MDPH, CDC, WHO, etc. for various topic areas and develop customized graphics as needed
- Shadow health agents doing camp inspections, food service inspections, water analysis, etc.
- Shadow public health nurses doing community wellness clinics, immunization clinics, etc.

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

**Primary location:** 45 Railroad Street, Lee, MA 01238



# Wakefield Health and Human Services (Middlesex County)

## Wakefield, MA (In-person only) – One placement

*Community Health; Data Entry, Analysis, and Management; Food Safety; Health Education; Substance Abuse*

The student will work with our Health Inspectors to review, update, and write rules and regulations. They will work with our Human Services branch on substance use prevention, coalition building, and raising mental health awareness in the community. They will work with the Director and Public Health Nurse on community health programs, evaluation projects, and clinic organization, including data management.

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

**Primary Location:** 5 Common Street, Wakefield, MA 01880. This location is accessible by public transportation.

Option #1 - MBTA Bus available from the Oak Grove Stop (Orange Line) Any Main St bus.

Option #2 – Drive and free parking is available behind City Hall.



# Walpole Health Department (Norfolk County)

**Walpole, MA (Hybrid: remote and in-person) – One placement**

*COVID-19, Community Health, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Health, Food Safety, Nutrition, Health Education, Health Policy, Needs Assessment, Substance Abuse*

The Town of Walpole Health Department is seeking a student intern who is interested in learning about the dynamic functions that a board of health (BOH) has to offer. The possible task(s) of the intern would include:

- Shadow inspectors on routine inspections (food, swimming pools, camps, septic, housing, etc.).
- Work on the Medical Reserve Corp Newsletter.
- Help with projects related to the Coalition for Alcohol and Drug Awareness.
- Assist with clinics or community outreach projects (vector-borne disease, sun protection awareness, blood pressure clinics, etc.).

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

**Primary Location:** 135 School Street, Walpole, MA 02081 (hybrid)