

Kentucky Department for Public Health

Student Internship Catalog

Fall 2025

September 2 – December 31, 2025



Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning

Historic Enteric Diseases Data Summaries

- Branch: Infectious Disease Branch
- Supervisor: Jennifer Khoury, MPH, Foodborne/Waterborne Epidemiologist II
- Open to: Masters
- Number of Positions: 2
- Desired Skills: Computer skills (Microsoft Excel), database familiarity (REDCap), analytic skills, time management, ability to work independently, detail-oriented
- Setting: Virtual, Hybrid
- Project Description: The Reportable Disease Section is seeking an intern to assist with entering historic enteric disease case and exposure data into a REDCap database. Under the guidance of the foodborne/waterborne disease epidemiologists, the intern will analyze data to describe case distribution and common exposures by pathogen. These findings will be summarized in pathogen-specific reports that will be shared with Regional Epidemiologists and ultimately utilized for informing future enteric disease cluster investigations.
- Project Deliverable 1: Back-fill and manage historic enteric disease data in REDCap database.
- Project Deliverable 2: Conduct analyses using historic enteric disease data to describe case distribution and identify exposures commonly reported for each pathogen.
- Project Deliverable 3: Develop reports to summarize findings for sharing with enteric disease staff and Regional Epidemiologists.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

HealthTracking.ky.gov Maintenance and Quality Improvement Project

- Branch: Division Office/Other
- Supervisor: Rhiannon Simon, MPH, Epidemiologist III
- Open to: Masters, Doctorate
- Desired Skills: Computer skills: Microsoft Suite, but especially excel; communication skills including plain language principles; data cleaning, manipulation, and visualization; familiarity with Sharepoint websites
- Setting: Virtual
- Project Description: The Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning seeks an intern to assist in the maintenance of KY Environmental Public Health Tracking's data portal, HealthTracking.ky.gov. The student will assist in the maintenance of data products and visualizations, webpages and help identify areas of quality improvement. The student will assist in prioritizing and updating ArcGIS, Tableau, and other data products and identifying opportunities to modernize data flows including automation.
- Project Deliverable 1: Assist with data cleaning and preparation for visualization.
- Project Deliverable 2: Update and maintain data visualizations on multiple platforms.
- Project Deliverable 3: Review opportunities for data modernization and automation.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) and Respiratory Virus Outbreak Surveillance and Reporting

- Branch: Immunizations Branch
- Supervisor: Carolyn Adam, MPH, Program Manager
- Open to: Masters, Doctorate
- Desired Skills: Introductory biostatistics and epidemiology coursework, familiarity with electronic survey software (e.g., REDCap, Survey Monkey), interest in VPD and viral respiratory disease surveillance and prevention, basic statistical software skills (e.g., SAS, R), intermediate MS Excel skills, basic analytic skills (including descriptive statistics, data visualizations) and written communication
- Setting: Virtual, Hybrid
- Project Description: The student will support the Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) and Viral Respiratory Disease Epidemiology Section in outbreak management and response during the 2025-26 respiratory virus season. The student will use REDCap and statistical software (e.g., SAS, R) to assess completeness of outbreak reports and work with epidemiologists to address completeness issues with regional and local staff responsible for reporting outbreaks. Additionally, they will support the Section in the creation and implementation of a weekly outbreak data report for Division leadership to inform awareness and public health response efforts. If time permits, the student will also have the opportunity to support the Section with statistical analysis projects using VPD and viral respiratory disease surveillance data and immunization data.
- Project Deliverable 1: Support outbreak data review and entry in REDCap during the respiratory virus season.
- Project Deliverable 2: Assess VPD and viral respiratory disease outbreak data completeness.
- Project Deliverable 3: Create a weekly outbreak data report template.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

Division of Laboratory Services

Introduction to Microbiological Assays at DLS

- Branch: Microbiology Branch
- Supervisor: Sarah Preston, M.S., Public Health Laboratory Scientist Manager – Microbiology
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate
- Desired Skills: Basic laboratory knowledge and enrolled in courses focused on a scientific field
- Setting: In-Person
- Project Description: This internship will provide a full, hands-on testing role in the Microbiology Branch. The Sections: Virology, Bacteriology, and Sequencing, within the Division of Laboratory Services (DLS), perform various testing methods to detect and identify bacterial and viral pathogens, including enzyme immunoassays (EIA), polymerase chain reaction (PCR), and whole genome sequencing. This position will learn to perform testing for infections, in which state-of-the-art technology is used to detect illness to ensure treatment is completed as quickly as possible, thereby eliminating or reducing the devastating effects, which could include permanent physical/mental disability or death. The candidate will learn how to perform routine serological methods, as well as high complexity testing, including both automated and manual molecular PCR testing. Microbiology testing at DLS is mandated by multiple statutes, which require our ability to test and investigate infections, including, but not limited to hepatitis, HIV, syphilis, influenza, COVID, Tuberculosis, STI, foodborne organisms and many more. Candidates will be exposed to the stringent laboratory accreditation requirements of both the College of American Pathologists (CAP) and Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA).
- Project Deliverable 1: Receiving, assessing quality and accessioning various types of specimens for microbiological analysis.
- Project Deliverable 2: Preparing specimens and instrumentation for testing, running quality control and calibrations, performing routine daily, weekly and monthly maintenance. Troubleshooting and requesting service.
- Project Deliverable 3: Perform multiple types of testing for viral and bacterial detection and identification.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

Division of Maternal and Child Health

Quality Improvement for Birth Defects Surveillance

- Branch: Program Support Branch
- Supervisor: Emily Ferrell, DrPH, CPH, Epidemiologist III
- Open to: Masters
- Number of Positions: 2
- Desired Skills: Required - Data analysis and interpretation-descriptive statistics only, ability to use and access to SAS or SPSS (SAS code available from supervisor) proficiency with analytic capabilities of Excel may substitute, professional communications using Microsoft Office products, database familiarity (data aggregation, cleaning or standardization of data), preferred/optional background in genetics, clinical medicine, nursing or medical coding.
- Setting: Virtual
- Project Description: The Kentucky Birth Surveillance Registry (KBSR) is undertaking a project to understand the role that vital statistics data play in birth defects surveillance. This project will compare birth defects reported on live birth and stillbirth certificates with those reported by hospitals and laboratories. The project will also utilize death and stillbirth certificate data to better understand the severity of birth defects and their impact on child fatality. The goal of this project is to develop recommendations for technical assistance with reporting, data quality assurance and prevention of birth defects related morbidity/mortality.
- Project Deliverable 1: The intern will clean and analyze birth defects data for the purpose of characterizing the sample by diagnoses, demographics, risk factors and geography.
- Project Deliverable 2: The intern will develop recommendations for technical assistance with reporting, data quality assurance and prevention of birth defects related morbidity/mortality.
- Project Deliverable 3: The intern will create written deliverables, such as presentations or fact sheets, to inform various audiences of the project findings, conclusions and recommendations.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

Office of the Commissioner

Division of Office of the Commissioner: Grant Ready: Creating Tools to Support Public Health Funding

- Branch: Office/Division Level
- Supervisor: Julie McAllister, MHA, Federal Grants Application Specialist
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters
- Number of Positions: 2
- Desired Skills: Strong business communication (verbal and writing) skills, organization and research skills, interest in public health grant work and organizational improvement, proficiency with Microsoft Word, Excel, Teams, Outlook, familiarity with website design concepts a plus!
- Setting: Virtual
- Project Description: This internship provides a hands-on opportunity to strengthen public health funding efforts. The intern will develop practical resources-such as a grant writing toolkit and a centralized grants calendar-to simplify the application process for staff and help leadership coordinate grant-seeking activities. They will also research grant support strategies used by other agencies and offer recommendations for improvement. Throughout the project, the intern will apply quality improvement methods to ensure these tools are user-friendly, effective and easily accessible via the department's intranet.
- Project Deliverable 1: Grant Application/Grant Writing Toolkit
- Project Deliverable 2: KDPH Grants Calendar (Excel tool)
- Project Deliverable 3: Updated "Grants Process" intranet page content
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement

Building Interactive Dashboards and Web Apps in R Shiny

- Branch: Division Office/Other
- Supervisor: Adam Berrones, PhD, Data Analytics Manager/Epidemiologist III
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters
- Number of Positions: 2
- Desired Skills: R, SAS, Python, SQL, Databases, Analytics
- Setting: Virtual
- Project Description: The Division of Prevention and Quality Improvement is seeking a motivated self-starter to assist with coding of dynamic web applications using the R Shiny framework. The student intern will assist with all phases of software development (from planning to maintenance) to obtain invaluable real-world skills in R programming. The primary focus will be leveraging public health related data sources such as Census, EPA, CDC, among others, to build visually pleasing and functional web applications.
- Project Deliverable 1: Student will use version control (GitHub) to track coding changes.
- Project Deliverable 2: Student will build modern interactive dashboards with bslib/shinydashboard/bs4Dash libraries.
- Project Deliverable 3: Student will directly contribute to deploying live web applications.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

Provider Surveying to Determine Health Professional Shortage Areas

- Branch: Health Care Access Branch
- Supervisor: Amanda Beth Shafer, Health Policy Specialist II
- Open to: Masters
- Desired Skills: Computer skills including Excel & Word, communication and telephone skills, social service or healthcare knowledge, surveying and/or research knowledge
- Setting: Virtual
- Project Description: The student will assist the Kentucky Primary Care Office by completing telephone surveys of clinics across Kentucky. A guide of contacts will also be created for future office use. The surveying results are used to identify areas with healthcare shortages and greater access needs. Results will be used to enhance the current Statewide Community Needs Assessment and develop Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA).
- Project Deliverable 1: Spreadsheet or Redcap entries of surveying results.
- Project Deliverable 2: Development of a guide for clinic contacts.
- Project Deliverable 3: Contribution to Community Health Needs Assessment.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

Division of Public Health Protection and Safety

Bluegrass Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Unit

- Branch: Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch
- Supervisor: Rebecca Lynn, Healthy Policy Specialist II; Regional Preparedness Coordinator; MRC Unit Co-Lead
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate
- Desired Skills: Computer skills (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Excel); administrative, community-based experience, interpersonal skills, written & verbal communications
- Setting: In-Person, Hybrid
- Project Description: The Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch seeks an intern to assist the Bluegrass Medical Reserve Corps Unit. Our regional unit is the largest in Kentucky and growing quickly. Volunteers are offered opportunities to assist in both medical and non-medical roles in education, disaster preparedness and response. This is an opportunity to work with local health departments, emergency managers and community based organizations in the 17 county Lexington/Frankfort and surrounding area. Please note, the office will be based at the Mercer County Health Department.
- Project Deliverable 1: Facilitate volunteer recruitment within individual counties by advocating to emergency managers and community based organizations.
- Project Deliverable 2: Support the designated lead volunteer in each county with MRC activities.
- Project Deliverable 3: Develop a mechanism to track receipt of volunteer incentives and ID badges to ensure all approved volunteers receive credentialing devices.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

Coalition Sustainment

- Branch: Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch
- Supervisor: Vickie Siedel, MLT, (ASCP)^{CM} Readiness and Response Coordinator
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters
- Desired Skills: Administrative, computer and communication skills
- Setting: In-person, Virtual, Hybrid
- Project Description: The West Kentucky Healthcare Coalition Sustainment Project strengthens regional partnerships to address cybersecurity, pediatric health, and human trafficking in healthcare settings.
- Project Deliverable 1: Work with coalition members by promoting trainings and educational opportunities related to a multitude of topic areas.
- Project Deliverable 2: Develop materials including flyers, brochures and other printed documents.
- Project Deliverable 3: Support the coalition's day to day activities.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

Environmental Health Outbreak Investigations

- Branch: Division Office/Other
- Supervisor: Margaret “Margo” Riggs, PhD, MPH, MS, Lead Outbreak Investigator
- Open to: Bachelors, Masters
- Number of Positions: 2
- Desired Skills: Microsoft 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook), Excel, statistical software, communications, study design, literature review/search, data aggregation, clean-up/standardization of data bases
- Setting: Virtual
- Project Description: The Division of Public Health Protection and Safety seeks an intern to assist the Disease Investigation Lead with complex public health investigations of diseases and conditions (including foodborne, waterborne and vector-borne). This project will allow the intern to gain skills in data collection, data analysis, developing training materials for local health departments to improve their outbreak prevention efforts, preparing professional presentations and technical reports and learn about program evaluation and monitoring.
- Project Deliverable 1: Student will assist with aggregation of data and documentation of case report forms, environmental assessments, lab results and facility diagrams for legionellosis investigations.
- Project Deliverable 2: Student will assist with designing trainings to ensure the local environmental health workforce is better prepared to conduct environmental health investigations and respond to outbreaks.
- Project Deliverable 3: Student will participate in collection and analysis of data for at least one outbreak investigation.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

Engaging the Next Generation of Public Health Professionals

- Branch: Division Office
- Supervisor: Madison Yerges, MPH, MHA, Human Services Program Supervisor
- Open to: Associates, Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate
- Number of Positions: 1
- Desired Skills: Microsoft 365 (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook), Excel, Canva, public speaking and research
- Setting: Virtual, Hybrid
- Project Description: The Public Health Student Education Section seeks a dedicated intern to assist with the recruitment of the future public health workforce. The intern will assist the Human Services Program Supervisor in creating educational and outreach materials designed to engage high school students and educators in public health. Additionally, the intern will assist the Student Internship Program Administrator with organizational and administrative support to facilitate the onboarding of new student interns each semester. The opportunity for local travel to attend recruitment, experiential learning and classroom speaking events are available. This project is ideal for a student wanting to gain experience in public health education, community outreach and workforce development.
- Project Deliverable 1: Student will assist in the development of experiential learning activities to increase public health career awareness for high school and university students.
- Project Deliverable 2: Student will develop educational and promotional materials utilizing Canva.
- Project Deliverable 3: Student will conduct research on existing public health activities that can be utilized in Kentucky classrooms and Kentucky Department for Public Health outreach efforts.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

HEART Healthcare Coalition Emergency Management

- Branch: Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch
- Supervisor: Yvette Coleman, Regional Readiness and Response Coordinator
- Open to: Associates, Bachelors, Masters
- Desired Skills: Computer and administrative skills
- Setting: In-Person/Hybrid: Must be local to the Bowling Green, KY area
- Project Description: The Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch seeks an intern to increase public awareness for the HEART Healthcare Coalition. The intern will be connected with Coalition Executive team members to gain an understanding of Healthcare Emergency Management. There is potential to work with partners in hospitals, emergency medical services (EMS), emergency management and public health.
- Project Deliverable 1: Create and execute marketing campaigns to raise awareness about coalition initiatives and engage new partners.
- Project Deliverable 2: Provide assistance in setting up meeting space, communications, and clerical help.
- Project Deliverable 3: Provide assistance in conducting inventory of assets.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

Kentucky TrackSafe Expansion

- Branch: Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch
- Supervisor: Vickie Siedel, MLT, (ASCP)^{CM} Readiness and Response Coordinator
- Open to: Associates, Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate
- Number of Positions: 2
- Desired Skills: Administrative, computer and communication skills
- Setting: Virtual, Hybrid, In-Person
- Project Description: The intern will market and educate on Kentucky's family disaster information tool-TrackSafe. They will assist in informational video development for a YouTube channel and in training materials. Develop strategies to increase community awareness on finding loved ones after a disaster.
- Project Deliverable 1: Update YouTube videos and develop new content.
- Project Deliverable 2: Provide assistance in training program development materials.
- Project Deliverable 3: Work to develop marketing materials to facilitate Kentucky communities' awareness of what happens when disaster separates families.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Planning and Logistical Support

- Branch: Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch
- Supervisor: Madeline Burgess, MPH, MRC State Coordinator Open to: Associates, Bachelors
- Desired Skills: Computer skills (required), Microsoft Office, Canva, communications, community based experience
- Setting: Hybrid
- Project Description: The student will be placed in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch to support the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Program. The intern will perform a wide variety of tasks to assist the State MRC Coordinators. The student will support the planning and coordination of several important events including the 2026 KY MRC Volunteer Summit, State-Wide Volunteer Workgroup Meetings and the semi-annual Unit Coordinator Meeting. These events will take place in 2025 and 2026 and will require additional support.
- Project Deliverable 1: Student will design and develop printed materials to promote upcoming MRC events.
- Project Deliverable 2: Student will provide logistical and organizational support leading up to the MRC events.
- Project Deliverable 3: Student will attend planning meetings and provide meeting minutes to committee members.
- Application Link: [Click Here to Apply](#)

Thank you

Amy Wininger, MS, Student Internship Program Administrator

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