

Student Intern Program

PUBLIC HEALTH OPPORTUNITY

Columbus Public Health's Student Intern Program is a collaborative effort of these Columbus Public Health programs:

- Epidemiology
- Infectious Disease Investigation
- Strategic Nursing Team
- Outbreak Response
- Emergency Preparedness
- Food Protection
- Water and Land Protection
- Tobacco 21/Smoke Free
- Vector and Rat Control
- Healthy Homes
- Rabies and Dangerous Animals
- Planning and Quality Improvement

Interns will learn about worldwide zoonotic, infectious and environmental diseases in a multi-disciplinary **One Health** setting, interact with real life public health activities and events, and network with public health and allied health professionals.

QUALIFICATIONS

Undergraduate or graduate students in public health, allied health, nursing, environmental health, veterinary medicine, and/or epidemiology. Interns completing an unpaid internship may qualify for a paid internship.

PLACEMENTS & LOCATIONS

- **Unpaid Remote:** 240 to 480 hours (remote only)
- **Unpaid Hybrid:** 240 to 480 hours (remote, Columbus Public Health, Allied Health locations, and events)
- **Paid:** 240 to 480 hours (remote, Columbus Public Health, Allied Health locations, and events)

DELIVERABLES

- Review current research and update information in an existing database of more than 200 zoonotic, infectious and environmental diseases.
- Develop and give a standardized PowerPoint presentation on one or more diseases to a public health and allied health audience.
- Complete shadowing, training and/or working with these Columbus Public Health programs: Epidemiology; Infectious Disease Investigation; Strategic Nursing Team; Outbreak Response; Emergency Preparedness; Food Protection; Water and Land Protection; Tobacco 21/Smoke Free; Vector and Rat Control; Healthy Homes; Rabies and Dangerous Animals; and, Planning and Quality Improvement.
- *Remote-only interns will be limited to telecommunication activities.*

PROGRAM AVAILABILITY

Continuous

APPLY TODAY

Contact Aaron Messer, DVM, REHS, MPH at 614-645-6748 or amesser@columbus.gov to learn more.

CONTINUE READING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INTERNSHIP ACTIVITIES.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS & INTERN ACTIVITIES

Epidemiology – Collects, analyzes and interprets data for community health assessments and program planning and evaluation; conducts surveillance; and, prepares for and responds to public health threats.

- Observe collection, analysis and interpretation of community health data for program planning.

Infectious Disease Investigation – Investigates reported cases of communicable disease, monitors disease in the community, and prevents the spread of disease.

- Participate in investigation of foodborne illness complaints and individually reportable foodborne diseases such as Salmonella and Shiga-Toxin producing E. coli (including conducting hypothesis generating questionnaires).
- Participate in interdisciplinary site visits to outbreak affected locations.

Strategic Nursing Team – Provides vaccination opportunities throughout the community, assists with emergency community outreach, and provides trainings for Stop the Bleed and Narcan (naloxone) administration.

- Provide clinical services, including lead testing, school-based vaccine administration and health fairs.
- Provide professional development through continuing education and community training.

Outbreak Response – Investigates and responds to outbreaks to prevent illness and protect the community.

- Facilitate early and rapid detection of outbreaks.
- Coordinate timely and comprehensive investigation of outbreaks and implementation of public health interventions to prevent further illness and protect the community.
- Conduct proactive health education and community outreach to prevent future outbreaks.

Emergency Preparedness – Strengthens Columbus' ability to prepare for and respond to emergencies by working with other agencies, developing and practicing emergency plans, monitoring disease, and training responders.

- Learn about Incident Response Structure and Coordination.
- Review Emergency Response Plans.
- Review/assist Points of Dispensing (POD).
- Learn about program-specific topics: BioWatch and public health response.
- Assist at events/exercises occurring at time of internship.
- Conduct site visits/assessments at chemical-holding facilities, laboratories or partner agencies.

Food Protection – Licenses and inspects food service operations and retail food businesses, and offers workshops for food workers.

- Shadow licensing inspections to ensure facilities safely prepare and serve food.
- Research foodborne illnesses by collecting information, identifying contributing factors, and mitigating potential risks.
- Attend food handler presentations.

Water and Land Protection – Licenses and inspects public swimming pools, spas, spray parks, private water wells, household and semi-public (small commercial) sewage systems, and solid waste facilities to comply with Ohio regulations. Also offers pool and spa safety training course.

- Shadow inspections of swimming pools, spas, spray parks, private water wells, sewage systems, solid waste facilities and tattoo/body art businesses.
- Attend/review pool and spa safety training course.

Tobacco 21/Smoke Free – Licenses, educates and inspects tobacco retailers to comply with Columbus City Code and Columbus City Health Code regulations, provides complaint investigation and enforcement under Ohio's Smoke-Free Workplace law, and collaborates with community partners to promote and support tobacco use prevention.

- Shadow/conduct tobacco buys.
- Shadow/conduct complaint investigations.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS & INTERN ACTIVITIES, *CONTINUED*

Vector and Rat Control – Monitors and controls mosquitoes and rodents to prevent diseases, inspects private swimming pools to prevent mosquito breeding, and consults on insect control.

- Obtain a Commercial Pesticide Applicator’s license.
- Inspect private swimming pools to prevent mosquito breeding and consult on insect control.
- Conduct mosquito trapping and identification, and conduct WNV testing.
- Conduct post-pesticide-spray trapping to determine efficacy of treatments.
- Study how pesticides are utilized to control vectors and conduct bottle assays to determine “knock down” rate of vectors.
- Conduct mosquito larviciding treatments.
- Shadow inspections of properties with rodent issues.
- Learn to bait properties with rodenticides.

Healthy Homes – Provides phone consultations on household hazards and assistance to families of lead-poisoned children.

- Conduct phone consultations with individual households on health risks or safety hazards contributing to adverse health outcomes and quality of life issues.
- Attend a lead screening event for children at a Columbus Public Health WIC office or Head Start.
- Shadow a lead investigation for a child with an actionable blood lead level.
- Shadow a lead outreach event.

Rabies and Dangerous Animals – Responds to animal bite and 311 Service Center complaints, issues farm animal permits, and provides information on animals and public health.

- Issue rabies quarantines.
- Conduct farm animal inspections.
- Investigate animal complaints from the public and shadow enforcement activities.

Planning and Quality Improvement – Coordinates community health improvement and strategic planning for Columbus Public Health, measures customer satisfaction, guides quality improvement initiatives, and monitors performance and compliance with departmental, state and national public health standards.

- Develop a customer satisfaction survey or simple evaluation.
- Develop measures that define success and use QI to make improvements.