## Project: Animal Bite Report

### Preceptor Name
Kristen Mertz and Lauren Brungo

### Phone
412-578-340

### Bureau
Assessment, Statistics, and Epidemiology

### Department
Infectious Disease Epidemiology

### Practicum Location
Downtown

### Number of students needed for this project
1

### Project Description
The Allegheny County Health Department is required by law to follow up on all animal bite exposures to prevent the spread of rabies, which is almost always fatal in humans. All reported exposures are investigated and recommendations are made for follow-up care and/or prophylaxis for rabies if needed. ACHD also provides rabies testing for animals involved in human exposures to determine whether prophylaxis is needed.

This project has 2 main components:
1) Learn about investigations of animal bites reported to ACHD
2) Analyze data on all animal bites reported to ACHD in 2018

The work will involve conducting a few investigations of animal bites and becoming familiar with the protocol for animal bite follow-up. The main part of the practicum involves cleaning and analyzing data, preparing tables and graphs, and writing a report for the ACHD website. The intern will be working part time with the Immunization Program and part time with the Epidemiology group.

### Primary Activities and Deliverables

1. Shadow investigations of animal bites reported to ACHD. Information is gathered primarily via telephone calls with bite victims, pet owners, and health care providers. This work will be done during the first 3 weeks of the practicum gain an understanding of how animal bite data are collected and entered into the database.

2. Clean the animal bite database (remove duplicates, look for irregularities)

3. Analyze animal bite data

4. Prepare tables and graphs for main results of interest

Prepare a report summarizing data on animal bites in Allegheny County in 2018

### Specific Qualifications
- An interest in learning about rabies and its impact on public health.
- Good data management and analytic skills. Experience using SAS.
**Project: Applied Epidemiology Training Development**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Preceptor Name</th>
<th>Alison Simmons/Jamie Sokol</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>412-578-8033</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bureau</td>
<td>Assessment, Statistics, and Epidemiology</td>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Epidemiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practicum Location</td>
<td>Downtown</td>
<td>Number of students needed for this project</td>
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**Project Description**

Public health practice is interdisciplinary, and as a result, public health practitioners come from a wide variety of disciplines and fields. The Allegheny County Health Department’s workforce includes clinical staff (e.g., nurses, medical assistants, dental hygienists, etc), lawyers, scientists, microbiologists, technical staff, engineers, policy developers, plumbers, and many other types of professionals. The goal of this project is to create a series of web-based trainings for ACHD to introduce non-epidemiologists to the basic concepts of epidemiology. The student will work with an Epidemiologist and the Workforce Development Administrator to identify training topics, create content, and record the training modules.

**Primary Activities and Deliverables**

The student will be responsible for:

- Creating at least three short trainings (about 10-15 mins in length) that teach staff basic epidemiologic concepts, including but not limited to: basic terminology, types of epidemiological data, types of studies, and interpretation and communication of data. The student will be expected to make this content relevant to ACHD’s programs and services, so some time will be dedicated to learning about our programs and how these programs use data. This will include examples from ACHD or Allegheny County.
- Writing a script for each module and recording narration.

If time allows, the student is welcome to create more than three trainings on this topic, or any other topic of interest that is agreed upon by the preceptors. Other opportunities may exist to support opioid surveillance and workforce development; however, the training development is the primary objective of this internship.

**Specific Qualifications**

- Academic coursework in epidemiology, study design, and epidemiological methods (undergraduate or graduate)
- Proficiency in Power Point or Prezi
- Comfort narrating a recording of the trainings to be used by ACHD
This practicum opportunity is with ACHD’s Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program. The invasive Asian Tiger Mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, is a day-biting nuisance and vector of several diseases of man and domestic animals. It is adapted to breed in small, water-holding containers that litter neighborhoods, leading to heavy infestations in several urban & suburban areas. The purpose of the study is to document the abundance & distribution of this and other similar mosquito species in Pittsburgh and to identify the particular micro-environments that allow it to breed in afflicted neighborhoods. The student will set traps, collect specimens, learn to identify co-infesting species of mosquitoes, conduct area wide surveys and interviews with residents who complain about mosquitoes.

Note: This internship starts mid-June. However, the intern must attend all orientation sessions for the PSI as scheduled and participate in the PSI group project prior to the mid-June start date. The student must work 200 hours before August 9th, when PSI ends. If the intern chooses, the project may continue until the end of October 2019 without pay. A personal vehicle for field work and a valid driver’s license are a requirement.

**Primary Activities and Deliverables**

The intern will be required to keep all surveillance data in an organized fashion in an Excel spreadsheet. They will also be required to compile the current data with historical data to communicate and visualize the spread of *Aedes albopictus* in Allegheny County. Some experience with ArcGIS mapping would be very useful to the project.

- **Mosquito surveillance** *(Collecting mosquito life stages in field using various methods & traps.)*
- **Mosquito rearing in lab** *(Rearing mosquito eggs to larval & adult stages at ACHD Housing office by flooding eggs in water until they hatch. Larvae require daily/weekly maintenance until they are large enough to identify to species.)*
- **Mosquito taxonomy** *(Learning to identify mosquito species using a microscope and taxonomic keys.)*
- **Maintain an Excel spreadsheet of surveillance results**

**POTENTIAL SECONDARY ACTIVITIES**

- **Public education** *(Conducting door-to-door neighborhood outreach, surveillance for breeding sites, responding to mosquito complaint calls, organizing neighborhood clean-up activities, etc.)*
- **Tick taxonomy** *(The intern may also learn to identify ticks that are submitted for consult on the potential for transmitting tick-borne disease.)*
- **Public Health Pests** *(Interest in pursuing a study of other current public health pests (rats, flies, bed bugs, etc.) will be supported as much as possible.)*

**Specific Qualifications**

The intern will begin learning about mosquitoes by reviewing a set of E-Modules by the American Mosquito Control Association. Journal publications on the Asian Tiger mosquito will also be made available on line. The intern will then accompany the preceptor on surveys for potential breeding conditions in neighborhoods that are known to be infested as well as areas where little or nothing has been found to date. Mosquito larvae will be collected from stagnant water. Several types of traps will be set to collect mosquito eggs and adults. Trap sites will be located in urban, densely populated neighborhoods. The preceptor will have a County vehicle for much of the survey work. However, the intern may sometimes be required to set or retrieve traps on their own. A valid driver’s license and use of a personal vehicle will sometimes be needed. The student must be physically able to...
2019 Pittsburgh Summer Institute in Applied Public Health Practice (PSI)
Project: Asian Tiger Mosquito Surveillance

conduct such work for the duration of the summer. A personal GPS device would be helpful when driving around to record trap sites. Some skill with ArcGIS software would be useful to create maps to communicate the spread of this invasive mosquito. When interacting with the public, the intern must be able to represent the Vector Control Program with professionalism and provide information about the roles and responsibilities of the program.
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Project: Cancer Incidence Analysis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preceptor Name</th>
<th>Lynda Jones and Kristin Selker</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>412.578.8350</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bureau</td>
<td>Assessment, Statistics, and Epidemiology</td>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Chronic Disease Epidemiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practicum Location</td>
<td>Downtown</td>
<td>Number of students needed for this project</td>
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**Project Description**

The selected intern will work with chronic disease epidemiologists to produce a descriptive analysis and brief report of cancer incidence in Allegheny County. Analysis will include using SAS to calculate age-adjusted rates by race, gender, stage, and site. The goals of the practicum are: (1) understand importance and process of cancer surveillance by health departments; (2) use statistical software to clean and analyze data in an applied public health setting; (3) develop tables and graphs with key findings and condense information into brief report.

**Primary Activities and Deliverables**

Primary activities include:

1. Conduct review of health department cancer incidence reports
2. Use SAS to develop code and calculate age-adjusted rates by race, gender, stage, and site
3. Use publicly available sources to query state and national data for comparison
4. Other related duties, as necessary.

Deliverables include brief report with key findings (and relevant tables and graphs) and presentation to ACHD staff.

**Specific Qualifications**

1. Must have completed introductory level SAS course or have experience coding in SAS environment
2. Basic knowledge of epidemiological principles
3. Interest in learning about applied epidemiology.
Preceptor Name | Jen Fiddner | Phone | 412-578-8002
--- | --- | --- | ---
Bureau | Assessment, Statistics, and Epidemiology | Department | Infectious Disease Epi
Practicum Location | Downtown | Number of students needed for this project | 1

**Project Description**

The mission of the Allegheny County Child Death Review Team (CDR) is to promote the well-being of children and reduce the number of preventable child fatalities within Allegheny County. This is accomplished by conducting in-depth case reviews of deceased Allegheny County residents aged 0-21 years. The review team is multi-disciplinary and is comprised of representatives from multiple county agencies. This practicum will involve matching CDR case lists with vital statistics, analyzing vital statistics data using ICD codes, analyzing review data from the National CDR Case Reporting System, and developing charts and graphs that may be used by the CDR team to inform the state CDR team, elected officials, prevention partners, and the public.

**Primary Activities and Deliverables**

Duties:
1. Analyze birth and death certificate data
2. Match CDR case list to death certificate data
3. Analyze case review data in the National CDR Case Reporting System

Deliverables:
1. Charts and graphs for the following cause and manners of death:
   * Homicide
   * Suicide
   * Overdose
   * Motor Vehicle related
   * Infant sleep related

**Specific Qualifications**

Experience and comfort working with statistical software such as SAS
Experience and comfort working with Microsoft Excel
Interest in data analysis and injury prevention
Project Description

The Air Quality Program includes a section dedicated to minimizing public exposure to airborne asbestos fibers through a robust compliance management program. ACHD was delegated by the Environmental Protection Agency with the authority to enforce the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs) for asbestos handling which is incorporated into Allegheny County Article XXI, rules and regulations for air pollution. The asbestos section is responsible for enforcing the regulations for renovation and demolition activities in regulated facilities, including reviewing and issuing permits, inspecting for standard work practices as required by EPA and ACHD, organizing education and outreach opportunities to the regulated community and the public, and managing enforcement cases involving non-compliance.

With this project, the aim is to develop a manual of standard operating procedures (SOP) to provide comprehensive guidance to current and future engineers and inspectors for the day to day operations of the department to ensure best practices are being used. For example, developing standard inspection protocols when performing inspections of containments and decontamination units to ensure asbestos fibers do not escape the regulated work area. Developing step by step SOPs of what work practices are required during the removal process for the most common asbestos containing materials. Each step of the process is a barrier between the disturbed asbestos containing material and the public, thus minimizing the public’s exposure to airborne asbestos fibers.

The work environment will be a combination of time in the office developing the procedures and documents related to the permitting process and with time spent in the field to understand the conditions of the abatement projects.

Primary Activities and Deliverables

The intern will be project leader responsible for gathering the requirements through field experiences and researching standard practices as defined by OSHA and EPA. The intern will also work with the team to fully understand all the regulations related to the proper asbestos handling and documentation. The project goal will be to develop a standard operating procedure that includes the following:

1. Health and Safety requirements for ACHD Staff
2. Training for ACHD staff
3. What inspector should look for when renovation and demolition projects have not notified ACHD
4. What inspectors should require when inspecting work practices for containments and asbestos removal
5. SOP for good investigations and evidence gathering
6. SOP for writing good reports for cases of non-compliance
7. Document retention SOP and chain of custody document use
8. Other duties, as assigned and related to the project.

Deliverables: A comprehensive manual with all pertinent SOPs to ensure best practices for current and future engineers and inspectors. This manual will also aid in onboarding new inspectors providing them with a reference manual during training. The manual will be an important tool of a well-trained staff utilizing standard procedures based on best practices.

Specific Qualifications

A candidate from the Environmental and Occupational Health concentration or the Environmental Health Risk Assessment Certificate is preferred, but not required. Prior coursework (undergraduate or graduate) that would be helpful includes: risk assessment, principles of environmental health/environmental exposure.
### Project Description: Emergency Preparedness Incident Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preceptor Name</th>
<th>Norm Tonti RN</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>(412) 578-8356</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bureau</td>
<td>Public Policy and Community Relations</td>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Emergency Preparedness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practicum Location</td>
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<td>Number of students needed for this project</td>
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**Project Description:**

Local health departments play a key role in the health security of our state and nation. The Allegheny County Health Department’s Emergency Preparedness and Response Program is a key part of managing the consequences of bioterrorism and pandemic outbreaks. One of the primary roles that the health department plays is planning for and dispensing of medical countermeasures (for example, antibiotics or vaccines) from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS). Dispensing from that stockpile in Western PA involves the creation of Points of Dispensing (POD). The project would consist of creating job action sheets for each of the POD positions. In times of emergency, the job action sheets would be used as a reference for the volunteers or county employees who would be working in the position. The sheets describe exactly what the employee or volunteer is supposed to do.

The student will also assist with various responder safety and health trainings including, CPR, first aid, active shooter awareness, bleeding control for the injured, hazmat, and others.

Previous applicants have used the practicum to obtain jobs in public health preparedness.

**Primary Activities and Deliverables**

- Creating job action sheets for incident command positions and other public health incident management roles during a public health emergency.
- Assisting in the implementation of preparedness trainings that take place during PSI, and any after-action reports or evaluations.

**Specific Qualifications**

Though not a requirement, it is useful for applicants to have some training in CPR and first aid and an interest in working in a classroom setting.
2019 Pittsburgh Summer Institute in Applied Public Health Practice (PSI)

**Project: Environmental Justice Data and Outreach**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preceptor Name</th>
<th>Dr. LuAnn Brink</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>412-578-8354</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bureau</td>
<td>Assessament, Statistics, and Epidemiology</td>
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<td>Practicum Location</td>
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<td>Number of students needed for this project</td>
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**Project Description**

Environmental injustice is an important issue that affects the health of communities throughout the world. In an effort to correct these persisting injustices in the United States, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state Departments of Environmental Protection (DEP) have created methods to identify communities in need of Environmental Justice (EJ).

In 2017, an environmental justice (EJ) index unique to Allegheny County was created to identify high priority communities in order to target interventions. This was created with community participation and prioritization. There will be opportunities to involve the community in a renewed prioritization process, as well as to update data utilized in the prioritization process.

**Primary Activities and Deliverables**

- Work with the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) to engage community groups for prioritization of environmental justice indicators.
- Collect data on newly prioritized indicators (database as deliverable)
- Rank and score census tracts based upon environmental justice criteria
- Provide report and visualization of EJ areas in Allegheny County.

In addition, there may be opportunities to work with the PA DEP and community groups with concerns about upcoming permits.

**Specific Qualifications**

- Proficiency in Excel and GIS required.
- Knowledge of Environmental Health preferred.
Preceptor Name | Annie Nagy | Phone | 412-247-7957
---|---|---|---
Bureau | Community Health Promotion and Disease Prevention | Department | Maternal and Child Health
Practicum Location | Wilkinsburg | Number of students needed for this project | 1

**Project Description**

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program at the Allegheny County Health Department is currently implementing a Healthy Families Allegheny (HFA) program (a Health Families America program) and is in the process of becoming a nationally accredited program. A peer review team will be conducting a site visit in August 2019 to evaluate whether the program is reaching the stated goals and objectives. The program is soon to begin a Self-Study (January 2019) to establish the effectiveness and efficacy of the program prior to the accreditation site visit. The role of the intern is to assist the team in the creation of a self-study timeline, organize and prepare program documentation related to the site visit, test HFA’s policies and procedures manual in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and staff, and help verify program data related to the number of families served and the services provided as well as adherence to program standards.

HFA is rooted in the belief that early, nurturing relationships are the foundation for life-long, healthy development. Interactions between direct service providers and families are relationship-based, designed to promote positive parent-child relationships and healthy attachment, strength-based, family centered, culturally sensitive and reflective. More information regarding the HFA Program can be found at [https://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/](https://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/).

**Primary Activities and Deliverables**

1) Maintain the HFA Program Self-Study Binder including all required documentation, policies and procedures, narratives, and documented evidence that will be sent to the Accreditation Peer Review team.
2) Aid HFA Team in reviewing and preparing program required data.
3) Aid HFA Team in reviewing program practices and standards.
4) Help Program Administrator prepare HFA staff for Accreditation interviews.
5) Communicate strategies for improvement in the program where needed.
6) Prepare Accreditation team binders.
7) Prepare family documentation.

**Deliverables:**

1) Program Self-Study Binder to be sent to Peer-Review Team (electronic and hard copy).
2) HFA Spreadsheets for standards to be included in the binder.
3) Tables of Evidence and Narratives for each HFA Critical Element (1-12 and Governance and Administration).

**Specific Qualifications**

Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, Excellent Writing Skills, Exceptional Organizational Skills
### Project Description

The student will work on various coordination aspects of the new Hep C Free Allegheny campaign. Hepatitis C is one of the most commonly reported infectious diseases in Allegheny County and can lead to serious liver disease and death if not treated. Hep C Free Allegheny is an hepatitis C elimination initiative patterned after End Hep C SF and is governed by a steering committee and 4 workgroups: Surveillance, Testing/Linkage to Care, Treatment and Prevention/Advocacy. The student will participate in the development of a strategic plan, develop a tracking system for workgroup priorities and accomplishments, develop materials that can be used to publicize the initiative and attract funding, and finalize the Hepatitis C Epidemiology Profile currently in development.

### Primary Activities and Deliverables

- Attend meetings and phone calls related to development of the Strategic Plan for Hep C Free Allegheny
- Create/revise spreadsheets to list and track workgroup priorities; write brief summaries of workgroup status for steering committee and workgroup meetings
- Develop written materials about Hep C Free Allegheny for grant applications, community groups, and the press
- Compile data on hepatitis C-related deaths, hospitalizations, and testing (create charts/graphs)
- Add text and edits to Hepatitis C Epidemiology Profile
- Address other hepatitis-related issues as needed

### Specific Qualifications

- Organization skills – to streamline processes for setting goals and measuring accomplishments
- Writing skills – to create reports and possibly press releases and commitment letters
- Epi skills – to compile, present, and interpret data
- People skills – to encourage collaboration among dozens of participating organizations
Preceptor Name | Jamie Sokol | Phone | 412-578-8018  
Bureau            | Administration | Department | Human Resources  
Practicum Location | Downtown | Number of students needed for this project | 1  

**Project Description**

A well-prepared workforce is critical for effectively delivering public health services in the community. Recently, workforce development and training has become a focus area for local health departments across the country, and plays a major role in Public Health Accreditation, which ACHD has recently achieved.

The student intern will be responsible for assisting with various aspects of planning, implementing, and evaluating competency-based trainings for health department staff. A large part of the internship will focus on collecting qualitative data to determine training needs in all programs for 2020. Other duties will include creating new templates for the workforce development plan and job descriptions, preparing training evaluation reports, maintaining the training database and tracking completion of trainings, and helping to develop web-based training on different public health topics. There may also be opportunities to participate in performance management activities, if time allows.

The student intern will be interacting primarily with program managers and administrators in all ACHD bureaus and programs. This is a great opportunity to learn about all the different types of programs and services a local health department offers, as well as gain valuable experience in the administrative aspect of public health practice.

**Primary Activities and Deliverables**

The student will primarily be involved in the following activities:

1. Interviewing deputy directors, program managers, and key administrators about training needs in order to inform the 2020 Workforce Development Plan. The student will be expected to track training needs and link them to the public health core competencies in Excel.
2. Assist in implementation and/or evaluation of any trainings planned during the PSI.
3. Help prepare documentation for public health accreditation.
4. Create a new template for the workforce development plan and ACHD’s job descriptions.
5. Contribute to development of web-based trainings for health department staff.
6. Maintain the training database.
7. Other workforce development duties, as needed.

The two main deliverables of this project will be a spreadsheet tracking training needs for 2020, linked to the Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals and a redesigned template for the workforce development plan and job descriptions.

**Specific Qualifications**

- Comfortable interacting with ACHD leadership and management
- Outstanding writing skills
- Excellent punctuality
- An interest in the administrative aspect of public health practice
### Project Description

This practicum will take place at the Allegheny County Health Department’s STD/HIV Program. The program has a free STD/HIV walk-in clinic that is open 5 days a week which offers routine testing and treatment for many sexually transmitted infections. There are staff members available who can inform the sexual partners of patients with a positive STD diagnosis to come in for free STD/HIV testing. Additionally, the program has a Condom Distribution Program that provides condoms to various community partners, organizations, and health centers. The STD/HIV program also conducts various outreach and educational opportunities including tabling health fairs, providing health/STD literature or resources, and STD/HIV presentations. The goal of the program is to provide resources, education, and services to underserved communities and partners.

The purpose of this practicum opportunity is to work on an upcoming mapping (GIS) project looking at high morbidity zip codes and municipalities, identifying resources and services provided in these areas, and how to best increase services and outreach to these locations. They will also create an evaluation tool for the Condom Distribution Program. They will mostly be targeting and trying to maximize services to populations who have an increased risk of an STD/STI (ages 15-24, IV Drug users, MSM, and pregnant women).

### Primary Activities and Deliverables

The activities include:
- using GIS to map high morbidity zip codes and municipalities
- determine which populations (i.e. MSM, 15-24, IVDUs, etc.,) should be targeted regarding morbidity data
- identify and create a database of organizations and resources in Allegheny County specific to health care and STDs
- reach out to organizations to discuss services and outreach
- create evaluation tool for the Condom Distribution Program

### Specific Qualifications

Experience with GIS programs like ArcGIS, is proficient with Excel and Word, and has knowledge of evaluation techniques and analyzing data is preferred.
2019 Pittsburgh Summer Institute in Applied Public Health Practice (PSI)
Project: Trauma-Informed Care Training Curriculum

| Preceptor Name | Beci Russell | Phone | 412-578-8308 |
| Bureau         | Administration | Department | HR/AmeriCorps |
| Practicum Location | Downtown | Number of students needed for this project | 1 |

Project Description

Student will develop a comprehensive training curricula focused on a continuous learning for trauma-informed care practice and methods. These materials and trainings will be presented to National Health Corps (NHC) AmeriCorps Pittsburgh members with the hope of also presenting materials to Host Sites and sharing to other NHC and AmeriCorps programs.

The materials should provide other cumulative review as well as build in comprehension and ability to address skills and resources necessary to develop public and clinical health leaders who are sensitive to how trauma impacts overall health and responses to treatment.

Trauma informed care is treatment framework that incorporates the understanding, recognition, and response to the effects of all types of trauma on an individual and groups of people in public and clinical health settings. The 5 principles of trauma informed care are: safety, transparency and trustworthiness, choice, collaboration and mutuality, and empowerment.

Primary Activities and Deliverables

Activities: research and develop best practice methods for teaching young health professional about trauma informed care practice in clinical and community settings

Deliverables: annual curriculum/plan and education materials to effectively implement teachings throughout successive program cycle years. These materials should include detailed lesson plans, necessary supplement materials (videos, presentations, articles, handouts), best community contacts, and any other important tools

Specific Qualifications

Student should have an interest in creating a trauma-informed care culture and a desire to educate others on best practices. Knowledge of Microsoft 365 and Google products including ability to work with cloud-based products a must.

Enrollment in the joint MPH/MSW program preferred, but not required.

National Health Corps (NHC) is a national AmeriCorps program focused on increasing access to health care and health education for under-resourced populations. Members serve at host sites in the community providing support for tasks and programs that would otherwise not be addressed or happen without a member there. The NHC Pittsburgh program is housed through Allegheny County Health Department and has a specific focus on providing training and mentorship to emerging public and clinical health young professionals. For more information, visit www.nationalhealthcorps.org/pittsburgh
**Project:** West Nile Virus Mosquito Surveillance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preceptor Name</th>
<th>Leah Lamonte</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>412-350-3651</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bureau</td>
<td>Housing &amp; Comm. Environment</td>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Vector Control</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practicum Location</td>
<td>Strip District</td>
<td>Number of students needed for this project</td>
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**Project Description**

This practicum opportunity is with ACHD’s Mosquito-borne Disease Control Program. The majority of the experience will be spent in the field trapping adult mosquitoes in Allegheny County to be tested for arboviruses such as West Nile virus. For more information about mosquito surveillance in Allegheny County and Pennsylvania, visit [www.westnile.state.pa.us](http://www.westnile.state.pa.us).

The intern must be available to work from **May 15 – September 27, 2019** on Monday through Thursday for approximately 20 hours per week. There is a requirement for the intern to work until the end of September therefore flexibility will be given around class schedule. A personal vehicle for field work and a valid driver’s license are a requirement. **After the initial 200 hours worked as required by PSI, the intern will be paid $9.50/hour.**

**Primary Activities and Deliverables**

**PRIMARY ACTIVITIES:**

- Mosquito surveillance (using gravid traps to collect adult mosquitoes 2 nights per week (10-15 traps) once trapping locations are learned)
- Sorting and preparing mosquitoes to be shipped for laboratory testing
- Database entry of surveillance results

**POTENTIAL SECONDARY ACTIVITIES:**

- Mosquito larvicide treatments in wetlands (intern may participate if available to work in April 2019 when treatments take place)
- WNV Catch Basin Program (intern may participate in one un-paid evening of this program for extra exposure to mosquito control activities)
- Public education (e.g. door-to-door neighborhood outreach, responding to mosquito complaint calls, neighborhood clean-up activities, etc.)
- Revising/creating vector control pamphlets & educational material
- Any other mosquito study that the intern would like to use for graduate thesis/essay material

The intern will learn trapping locations from the preceptor for the first few weeks, and then trap on their own for the remainder of the summer. The intern will assist the preceptor in meeting a weekly trap minimum as set in the 2019 Mosquito-borne Disease Control Grant provided by the PA Department of Environmental Protection to ACHD. All surveillance data will be entered into a database within one day of field work.

**Specific Qualifications**

A valid driver’s license and personal vehicle are mandatory to transport mosquito traps to and from the field. Mileage will be reimbursed at the Pennsylvania Mileage Reimbursement Rate (currently $0.58/mile) for the entirety of the internship. The intern must be able to lift 50 pounds and be willing to haul traps in their personal vehicle that may get dirty and have an odor from the bait used to lure mosquitoes. The majority of time will be spent in the field therefore the intern must be physically able to conduct such work for the duration of the summer. A personal GPS device would be helpful when driving around to locate trap sites. When interacting with the public, the intern must be able to represent the Vector Control Program with professionalism and provide information about the roles and responsibilities of the program.