2016 Massachusetts Department of Public Health LOCAL HEALTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (MDPH) Division of Epidemiology and Immunization is seeking up to 35 graduate students to intern in local health departments during the summer of 2016. Cities and towns currently seeking interns are listed in this posting.

The positions to be filled are Local Public Health Interns. 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, and other duties as determined by the local health department in collaboration with the student. Accepted students will also be offered the opportunity to spend time shadowing epidemiologists and health educators at the MDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease Prevention and Laboratory Services or Bureau of Environmental Health.

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. Most students will need access to a vehicle; however, some cities/towns have public transportation.

The student will be **required** to attend both an orientation program and the closing session held in Boston. 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. 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.

Estimated number of hours required per week: 8-15 (Hours are flexible in most communities)

Students must commit to a minimum of 120 hours during the summer (Estimated time frame: 5/25/16- 8/18/16)

At this time, listed opportunities are *unpaid* internships.

While many of the following health departments are accessible by public transportation, commutes may be lengthy: please factor in anticipated commute times before you apply.

Student Application Instructions:

Applicants should submit a cover letter and copy of their resume via email by the application deadline: <u>Friday</u>, <u>March 18</u>, <u>2016</u>.

Your Cover Letter Must Include:

- 1. A list of cities/towns/programs (from the choices attached) at which you would be interested in interning. Please include *AT LEAST THREE* options, in order of preference. The more towns / programs selected, the better your chances of placement.
- 2. A brief description of your interests and any specific project area that you would like to focus on. Consider the projects that the cities/towns have proposed, but remember that many health departments are willing to adapt their projects to the student's interests.
- 3. A list of graduate-level course work you have completed (or will have completed by June 2016).

The above information helps us to make the best possible matches between interns and local health departments.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Interested students should submit a cover letter and resume <u>via email</u> no later than **Friday**, **March 18**, **2016**, to:

Hillary Johnson, MHS

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
State Laboratory Institute

Phone: (617) 983-6800
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Jamaica Plain, MA. 02130

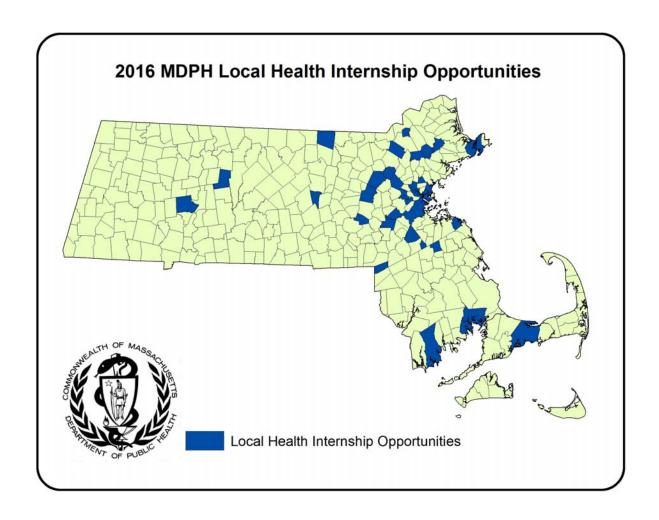
Email submissions are preferred

Please feel free to contact Hillary Johnson via email with any questions you may have regarding the application process or the internship program.

All students will be notified as to the status of their applications no later than <u>April 8</u>, <u>2016</u>.

MDPH acknowledges Boston University's School of Public Health long-standing commitment and support to the MDPH Local Health Internship Program.

The following is a list of cities/towns and Massachusetts state programs that are interested in hosting an intern, including a submitted description of their suggested projects. Please read the descriptions carefully and consider the project areas as well as the geographic location.



For a more detailed map of Massachusetts cities and towns please visit: http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cispdf/City_Town_Map.pdf

SUMMARY OF 2016 LOCAL HEALTH INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Abington Board of Health (Plymouth County)

Health Education / Food Safety

The Abington Board of Health envisions the selected intern participating in a Food Safety project. The project would include documenting and tracking problematic food establishments with continuous and repeated violations. This project would have a health education component focused on a written protocol and delivered directly to facility owners and staff. The purpose of health education in this context is to allow offenders a means to resolve violations. The intern would also assist in the development of a system to allow for spot checks; this protocol would ascertain compliance with violations and education requirements. Finally, the intern would develop a compliance test for establishment.

The intern would work alongside the Health Agent and assist with inspections of food establishments, housing, body art/piercing establishments, tanning facilities, pool, and septic system, etc. This may require researching Massachusetts laws and regulations, issuing permits, writing grants, composing notices to correct orders, updating the town website, fielding calls, and dealing with emergency situations.

Prior to starting the internship applicants should have a general knowledge of food safety. Estimated days/hours: The Board of Health office is open weekdays from 8:30-4:30. Some work may require visiting other departments and completing field work during normal business hours. The Board of Health would like an intern to have availability for 20 hours weekly; however more time can be arranged.

The Town of Abington is serviced by the Kingston/Plymouth Line of the MBTA Commuter Rail. The Abington Board of Health agent is willing to help coordinate transportation.

Ashland Board of Health (Middlesex County)

Emergency Preparedness / Environmental Health / Health Education / Data Analysis Entry and Management

The Ashland Board of Health is looking for a motivated intern to assist with several possible project areas, including the following:

Emergency Preparedness: the intern will collaborate with the local emergency planning committee and regional homeland security collaborative on emergency preparedness and planning exercises.

Environmental Health: the intern may have an opportunity to work on several environmental health projects including one involving a Superfund site.

Health Education: the intern will assist in designing programs to educate residents about promoting exercise, healthy food choices at retail establishments and restaurants, and tick and mosquito—borne disease awareness.

Food Inspection Database: The intern would assist in the development and assessment of a new food inspection database for Ashland.

The student will have access to and the opportunity to shadow public health staff including the health agent, public health nurse, food inspector and tobacco agent on inspections and for routine public health activities.

Ashland is accessible by public transportation.

Avon Board of Health (Norfolk County)

Environmental Health / Data Analysis, Entry, and Management / Needs Assessment

The Town of Avon is seeking a graduate student work under the direction of the Public Health Agent and DPW Director as a Public Health and/or GIS/Data Collection Intern.

The selected student will work on multiple projects within the Health Department and DPW which may include environmental health projects, GIS Mapping, Data Collection and a Needs Assessments. Other duties will be determined by the DPW Director and Health Agent in collaboration with the student. Accepted students will also be offered the opportunity to spend time shadowing the DPW Director and Health Agent.

Students should be able to work independently and have basic computer and common office equipment skills. Environmental Health experience and/or prior work experience is a plus, but is not required. Applicants must be able to communicate effectively in English. GIS, Excel and/or Access knowledge preferred.

Upon completion of this internship each student will have an excellent understanding of the various roles of Town Departments in Avon and will have obtained hands-on experience in the practice of environmental health and groundwater protection as it relates to water quality management.

Most students will need access to a vehicle; however there is limited public transportation to Avon.

Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment (Barnstable County)

Environmental Health / Needs Assessment / Food Safety / Health Education

The mission of the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment (BCDHE) is to protect and promote a healthy Cape Cod community through disease prevention and control, health and safety education, environmental protection, and emergency preparedness. An internship at BCDHE offers a distinctive opportunity to not only gain valuable experience in the proposed public/ environmental health project areas, but also the opportunity to shadow other BCDHE employees to experience programs such as, beach water quality, emergency planning, and many other options. The BCDHE is proposing the following two projects:

Food Safety Education-Regulations and Enforcement: Food safety is always a vital concern. On Cape Cod, with the seasonal population increase, an influx of workers and tourists create an at risk population. There is also a new focus on farm to table or sea to table products with new processing and preservation techniques that make it difficult for Health Agents to keep up with regulatory requirements. Since the BCDHE facilitates a local, Cape Cod area Health Agent's Coalition that meets on a regular basis, it offers a unique opportunity to bring information directly to the agents and inspectors who are tasked with enforcement. The intern for this project will:

- Meet with Health Agents across Cape Cod to create a comprehensive list of products that are being generated using unique processing/ manufacturing techniques, or other uncommon food safety concerns that they may have encountered.
- Research proper permitting requirements and special processing regulations that
 may be required for these products/ concerns. This includes local, State and
 Federal code requirements.
- Produce a reference guide to address the items of concern.
- Prepare a project presentation for all of the Health Agents.

Cape Cod Hoarding Task Force (CCHTF): The Cape Cod Hoarding Task Force's mission is to raise awareness of compulsive hoarding and to provide education and support for those affected by hoarding through accessible tools, referrals and resources. Although the BCDHE fully supports and assists the CCHTF, it is an all-volunteer organization with limited resources. The intern for this project will work to get information about the CCHTF out to the people that need it by doing the following:

- Create materials to be used at various events to introduce the CCHTF and describe our mission.
- Evaluate and make changes to the CCHTF website to ensure that it contains correct and up to date information that will visually convey the CCHTF message.
- Reach out to organizations directly to develop working relationships and increase membership.

Barnstable is not accessible by public transportation, however much of the work may be completed off-site. Applicants should arrange travel with this internship structure in mind.

Bedford Board of Health (Middlesex County)

Environmental Health / Needs Assessment / Health Education

The Bedford Board of Health is seeking a motivated intern to assist with activities in two primary project areas:

Needs Assessment/ Substance Abuse Prevention Program:

The Bedford Board of Health is seeking an intern to assist with a need assessment on substance abuse prevention services and outreach. The main task is to collect information to identify and describe substance abuse issues in town. The intern will gather data from local hospitals, first responder records and related agencies, and administer the Youth Risk Behavior Survey. The intern will analyze the data and define the scope of the problem. The intern will examine evidence-based public health implementation and evaluation strategies. They will assist in the development of education materials and targeted programs to reduce the impact of substance abuse in the community. Knowledgeable staff will be available to provide the intern with appropriate guidance and supervision.

Board of Health Inspections and Programs:

The Town of Bedford has many summer programs that the intern could be involved with related to the inspection process. The intern will be able to assist with inspections of camps, swimming pools, farmers' market and the town bathing beach. The experience will provide the intern with a broad understanding on public health issues and day-to-day operations of a local health department.

Public transportation to Bedford is limited to one MBTA bus (62 from Redline Alewife Stop). It is walking distance from the bus stop to the Town Hall.

Belmont Health Department (Middlesex County)

Environmental Health / Substance Abuse / Needs Assessment

The Belmont Health Department is offering an opportunity for a graduate student to gain practical experience working in local public health. This internship will expose a student to many of the issues that a local health department addresses on a daily basis. The student will 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.

Additionally, the internship will provide a student with the opportunity to take the lead on an individual project to either develop a health regulation (medical marijuana), develop a

health education campaign (opioid abuse), or conduct a community health assessment (cancer study).

The Belmont Health Department is open Monday – Thursday, 8:00am to 4:00pm and Fridays 8:00am to 1:00pm and is accessible by public transportation via bus or commuter rail. The ideal candidate will be expected to work 8-10 hours per week and should have access to a laptop. Work will be performed in an office setting with some possibility for remote work.

<u>Boston - Massachusetts Department of Public Health - Office of</u> <u>Performance Management and Quality Improvement (Suffolk County)</u>

Health Policy / Needs Assessment / Performance Management / Quality Improvement /

For 2016, MDPH's Office of Performance Management and Quality Improvement has an internship specifically designed to immerse students in a public health setting to address real world business problems including communicating a common vision and increasing the capacity of nearly 3000 employees specific to public health quality improvement. The intern may:

- Assist with development, implementation and evaluation of Quality Improvement Projects (QIPs);
- Assist with developing and implementing "just in time" trainings on QI tools;
- Create content and coordinate the upload of QI tools and resources for MDPH staff:
- Develop, implement and/or evaluate tools and interventions to address identified needs:
- Conduct presentations to internal stakeholders;
- Create inventory of recent quality improvement activities, tools and resources through each bureau of the department, along with any tools/gems that we can add to our treasure chest of Performance Management and Quality Improvement tools; and/or,
- Research best practices and develop recommendation on content management system for QI projects.

The MDPH Office of Performance Management and Quality Improvement is located in downtown Boston and is accessible by public transportation.

<u>Boston - Massachusetts Department of Public Health - Bureau of Infectious Disease, Office of Integrated Surveillance and Informatics Services (Suffolk County)</u>

Outbreak Investigations / Data Analysis, Entry, and Management / Infectious Disease Case Follow Up

Case based varicella surveillance data has been in place in Massachusetts since 2004, with substantial modification to the data collection process in 2014. Collection of data on varicella cases is complicated by laboratory reporting of varicella zoster virus (VZV), which does not differentiate between varicella (chickenpox) and herpes zoster (shingles). Cases of shingles are not reportable in the state of Massachusetts except when they are complicated by meningitis or encephalitis. In the fall of 2015 MDPH began work on enhanced surveillance of varicella outbreaks and hospitalizations. The Epidemiology Program and the Office of Integrated Surveillance and Informatics Services are seeking an intern to support these efforts.

The intern would be working with epidemiologists in both programs on the following:

- Retrospective case review to identify hospitalized varicella cases and perform medical record review to enhance existing surveillance data.
- Quantify and describe cases of shingles, viral meningitis, and encephalitis cases misclassified as varicella cases.
- Communicate with infection control practitioners to conduct case investigations of hospitalized and severe varicella cases.
- Participate in other vaccine preventable disease control activities, including outbreak investigations.

The intern will also have the opportunity to participate in the initial analysis of the newly collected varicella hospitalization data.

This internship opportunity is located at the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory in Jamaica Plain which is easily accessible via the Orange Line.

<u>Boston - Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Bureau of Infectious Disease, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization (Suffolk County)</u>

Foodborne Disease Response Team

The Foodborne Illness Project Area within the MDPH Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Science is seeking two students to take part in new initiative that would establish the "MDPH Foodborne Response Student Interview Team". The team's duties may include: interacting with local boards of health in conducting routine case-patient interviews, assisting with surge capacity during a response to a specific outbreak or event, data entry, and other special projects.

The selected interns would be required to undergo training on foodborne illness, disease transmission, outbreak investigations and general program policies and procedures. The training may consist of both in-person and online trainings, shadowing an epidemiologist, attending program meetings and conference calls. Familiarity with medical terminology would be beneficial as would an understanding of confidentiality issues related to patient data.

This internship opportunity is located at the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory in Jamaica Plain which is easily accessible via the Orange Line.

Canton Board of Health (Norfolk County)

Health Education / Needs Assessment

Elder Falls Prevention

The Canton Board of Health is looking for an intern to assists in developing a multidisciplinary fall and fall-related injury prevention program in the community. Falls are a leading source of injury, particularly among older adults. This project will include the collection of data, measuring outcomes, and material development to address the dangers of falling, risks and provide tips for preventing falls. The intern may be expected to review adjacent communities' plans to assess best practices.

The intern will also have the opportunity to shadow Board of health staff and work on other topical public health projects.

Canton Board of Health is located 1.5 miles from the commuter rail stop. Students are advised to have their own transportation.

Chelsea Board of Health (Suffolk County)

Health Policy / Emergency Preparedness / Outbreak investigations / Environmental Health / Needs Assessment / Health Education / Routine Case Follow Up

The Chelsea Board of Health has several projects for motivated interns and is willing to work with a student on a variety of project areas that may be of interest. The ideal candidate would have an interest and some background in policy analysis and policy development, health disparities among culturally diverse populations, and basic training in epidemiology and biostatistics. Potential project areas include:

- Medical Countermeasures Operational Readiness
- All Hazards Plans (review and data update)
- Tattoo Parlors Regulation (review and propose updates)
- Research on E-Cigarettes Regulations
- Evaluation of Trans Fats Regulations and Use in Chelsea
- Health Disparities and Social Capital review of literature and current community engagement strategies

One of these topics would be jointly selected with intern by staff and Board of Health members. The student would have access to a dedicated mentor throughout the internship.

Chelsea Board of Health is accessible via MBTA Bus 111 from Haymarket Sq.in Boston.

Cohasset Board of Health (Norfolk County)

Environmental Health / Needs Assessment / Health Education

As a coastal community Cohasset faces several unique public health concerns including high rates of melanoma. The Cohasset Board of Health is seeking an intern to assist the Board Director in sun safety education and community outreach to our residents at our town beach, recreation department, schools and sailing clubs.

Cohasset has a grant for Melanoma Education but toned to build capacity to fully utilize the grant-funded tools and materials. The intern will assist in targeting appropriate community groups and addressing particularly high rates in of melanoma in white males over 62 years of age, with the overall goal of reducing melanoma rates among all Cohasset residents.

The student will have access pending time to many other topical public health issues including mechanisms to address Lyme Disease, public health collaborations with abutting towns; and health education activities to address rising opioid abuse.

There is a commuter rail but no immediate access to the town hall. Students are advised to have access to a vehicle.

Concord Health Division (Middlesex County)

Needs Assessment / Data Analysis, Entry, and Management

The Concord Health Department is seeking an intern to assist with two research projects related to the health of our senior residents.

Survey Assessment:

The first project is an investigative study using health screening to assess and quantify co-occurring, less visible health problems in seniors. Approximately 85 senior clients at the Concord Council on Aging attend regular blood pressure screening clinics. These clinics are conducted by the Public Health Nurse and other volunteer medical professionals. At each clinic, each patient is screened for co-occurring conditions such as dehydration; depression/social isolation; stress and anxiety; need for assistance with medication management; nutrition issues; and chronic pain. The intern would collate the raw data, create a database, analyze the data and report on results. The data will be used to better understand co-occurring health needs of seniors, target future health

programming to meet these needs, and support town and grant funding requests to address these issues. The intern will be expected to make a public presentation on the results to the Public Health Director, Public Health Nurse, and Council on Aging staff.

The second project involves analyzing the results of a senior survey that assesses needs of senior residents in emergency situations. Fifty seniors have fully completed this survey. The intern will be expected to collate the data, create a database, and report on results. Results of this project will be used to inform the town's emergency and shelter planning for this vulnerable population.

The intern will work under the supervision of the Public Health Nurse, with additional oversight by the Public Health Director and Council on Aging staff. We are seeking an intern who is a self-starter that can work independently. Our preferred day for the intern to work is Thursday. The schedule is flexible and some work can be completed off-site if the intern prefers to work semi-independently. The selected candidate will have the opportunity to shadow personnel at the health department.

The Concord Health Division is accessible via the MBTA Fitchburg Commuter Rail Train line.

Dartmouth Board of Health (Bristol County)

Environmental Health / Health Education

Dartmouth is one of the larger towns in the Commonwealth measuring almost fifteen miles in length. The land use in Dartmouth is extremely diverse ranging from seaside summer communities to dense urban-like neighborhoods, to remote agricultural and forested areas in the north end. The Dartmouth Health Department is looking for a student intern to assist the Department in fulfilling statutory and regulatory mandates during the summer.

The intern will assist the Department with sampling our bathing beaches, investigating sites for suitability for on-site wastewater disposal and assisting staff with investigations of public health importance. Additionally, the intern may be asked to perform research on peer communities' efforts to address substance abuse.

Dartmouth is not accessible by public transportation; applicants should plan accordingly.

<u>Dartmouth Marion and Rochester Health Departments (Bristol & Plymouth Counties)</u>

Opioid Abuse Prevention and Awareness

The Marion, Rochester and Dartmouth Health Departments are currently collaborating with other communities on a variety of public health initiatives, including a regional approach to resource utilization, health education, and substance abuse. These health

departments are looking for a strong intern candidate(s) to assist in assessing and developing regional resources in the following project areas:

Substance Abuse in Elders:

Our Health departments recognize that there are substance abuse issues in our elder population that are largely not recognized or addressed. This project would be to design and conduct a regional assessment of substance use and abuse among elders, identifying issues that are unique to the aging population. Characteristics of substance use in elders will be used to more fully describe the substance use and abuse problem in our region.

Opioid Abuse and Under-Age Drinking Prevention Coalition:

The Marion-Rochester Health District (MRHD) has been actively implementing processes to deter substance abuse within the Health District. The Health District has conducted surveys and interviews with key informants of its member communities to identify substance abuse concerns within the community. Additionally, the MRHD is a collaborating member of a regional opiate abuse prevention coalition and an under-age drinking prevention coalition. These groups have a focus of developing new policies, practices, systems and environmental changes to increase the scope of prevention of abuse of opioids in the Southcoast area. The MRHD is seeking an intern to collaborate with the public health nurses and the boards of health to assist us in developing an integrated and comprehensive strategy to substance abuse prevention and intervention within the district.

Social Media:

The intern will assess existing communication structure, and work collaboratively with the Public Health Nurses, the Health Agent and other Health Department personnel to design and implement a sustainable communication system for the Marion-Rochester Health District. The intern will develop a written policy and procedure manual for utilization of these tools, and train health department personnel on usage and maintenance of these tools for health communication purposes.

Medical Reserve Corps:

The Marion-Rochester Health District has committed to reorganizing and restructuring the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit serving the needs of the District. This process has involved significant recruitment efforts and formation of volunteer executive committee. The intern will work with the executive committee to identify strengths and weaknesses of its current assets (personnel, equipment and policies) and assist the executive committee with development of a strategic plan to assure its success.

Training and guidance will be provided by both the Marion and Dartmouth Health Agents. The ideal candidate will have a strong understanding and interest in community health, collaborations, and maximizing resources. This internship offers a unique opportunity to assist in shaping public health policy for the southcoast region.

These community health departments are not accessible by public transportation applicants should plan accordingly.

Dover Board of Health (Norfolk County)

Lyme Disease / Environmental Health / Needs Assessment

The Dover Board of Health strives to inform the public of ongoing health related issues that may impact the individual, the community, and the environment.

The BOH and its Lyme Disease Committee are seeking an intern to document existing programs and support services available to residents of the Town via the Board of Health. Of significant importance is Lyme disease in the community, the selected intern will examine tick protection and deer management programs in Dover.

The intern would also research various health department services offered by neighboring towns to learn what additional programs may well serve residents of Dover.

Example programs needing a utility assessment and subsequent development of promotional materials include:

- Food scraps program garbage pick-up, composting
- Medical waste sharps disposal, drug disposal
- Recycling mercury, household waste, hazardous waste, fluorescent lights
- Home safety domestic abuse, gun safety, smoke and other detectors, pool safety
- Environmental road salt contamination, shallow wells, , and septic system maintenance

The intern will assess each existing or potential new program in specified areas and the benefits to the community and the environment. The intern will develop a brochure, enewsletter, or other communications deliverable for new and current residents in Town that highlights each program and the process by which residents can gain access to the program.

The Dover Board of Health is not accessible via public transportation applicants should plan accordingly.

Gloucester Health Department (Essex County)

Zoonotic Disease Health Education

The Gloucester Health Department is actively seeking an intern to assist in raising awareness and providing education to the community on Tick and Mosquito Borne Diseases. Gloucester is one of the few communities in the region not participating in mosquito monitoring programs – this highlights the need for primary prevention strategies to avoid transmission of mosquito borne illnesses. Tick Borne diseases have also been steadily increasing over the past several years in Gloucester, especially Anaplasmosis and Babesiosis, two less publicly known diseases. The intern would perform the following tasks to increase awareness and provide education:

• Order and organize educational materials;

- Work collaboratively with MDPH to identify materials and resources.
- Provide education and age appropriate interactive materials for all camp counselors and camp attendees in Gloucester;
- Develop and distribute educational pamphlet directed to landscapers and local gardeners;
- Attend community health fairs and farmer's market to educate public on Tick and Mosquito borne diseases; and,
- Identify population trends of all reported tick borne diseases i.e. location of exposure, age, sex, year of exposure and generate maps or graphs with data collected to analyze trends over time.

Training and guidance will be provided by the Public Health Nurse. The intern would work 8-10 hours a week and have access to a city vehicle for use during working hours. The Gloucester Health Department is accessible by public transportation services. A designated office space will also be made available.

Lawrence Health Department (Essex County)

Emergency Preparedness / Outbreak Investigations / Environmental Health / Health Education / Substance Abuse / Routine Case Follow Up

The community of Lawrence is ethnically diverse the ideal intern candidate should be familiar and comfortable with a large Hispanic population and other non-English speaking ethnic groups

The Lawrence Health Department is looking for a strong candidate to develop, promote and launch a revamp of our sharps collection process to the community. In light of the current opioid crisis this project is of critical importance to the community.

The selected candidate will also have an opportunity to review and update our Emergency Dispensing Plan, assist in surveillance of disease investigation, shadow at the local TB clinic and possibly shadow on some active TB case contact investigations with in-home DOT visits. Bilingual (Spanish) preferred but not required.

The Lawrence Board of Health is accessible via MBTA (Commuter rail train) and MVRTA (bus).

Lexington Board of Health (Middlesex County)

Zoonotic Disease Health Education / Emergency Preparedness / Environmental Health

The Lexington Health Division is seeking a graduate student passionate in zoonotic disease, control, and education to act as a "Public Health Educator." The student would assist the Board of Health in educating the community about tick and mosquito-borne diseases. The Public Health Educator will also work to educate local businesses on recent updated local board of health regulations regarding tobacco products.

The ideal candidate would have a sincere interest in prevention through health education. Student would have the ability to speak to small groups of residents ranging in size from 5 - 15 people. The student would conduct seminars on various topics such as Lyme disease, West Nile Virus, EEE and other emerging topics as necessary. The selected student may consult with MDPH and other subject matter experts to access materials and resources. A laptop and projector are provided.

The health educator will ensure that tobacco establishments display proper signage for the purchase age restriction of 21, ensure that blunt wraps are not sold in the establishment and educate the tobacco retail store staff about the updated local regulation. It is anticipated that the Health Educator will not conduct any enforcement or regulatory action but will mainly act as a mechanism to provide health education information to the community. The Health Educator shall perform these services, or other health education opportunities based on emerging topics as assigned by the Lexington Health Division. It is anticipated that these Health Education activities will take place after hours of normal Health Division operations and during weekends.

The Lexington BOH is accessible by public transportation; however access to a vehicle would be beneficial for seminar dates.

Lynnfield Board of Health (Essex County)

Environmental Health / GIS Mapping

The town of Lynnfield lacks any municipal sewer infrastructure, and as such, properties are served by on-site waste water systems (septic systems) which are regulated under Title V. 310 CMR 15.000. Lynnfield has two water districts with one using ground water wells for public supply and the other which includes a ground water protection district. Some residents have both well and septic system onsite. Lynnfield also has extensive wetlands and other sensitive areas including tributaries that lead to public drinking water supplies.

Proposed Project:

A comprehensive compilation of data revealing of the type of systems, age of systems, number of bedrooms/design flow and proximity to environmentally sensitive areas would be undertaken through a review of existing data, maps and/or available GIS data, with possible site visits. This comprehensive compilation will help aid the intern in preparing and presenting a final assessment – to identify non-conforming systems, aging systems and systems located with environmentally sensitive areas such as wetland, tributaries, public and private wells.

Both public and environmental health would be better served with a comprehensive assessment to identify those systems and locations that are not consistent with current Title V standards. In addition, the BOH experiences frequent requests for this data (System Inspectors, Realtors, Buyers/Sellers, Engineers/Sanitarians, Homeowners, etc.)

The intern would be given instruction on file review intake and assembling of data with the goal of having a comprehensive compilation at the end. The intern, through familiarity with the files, may also assist the public with records requests. This project offers a motivated intern the opportunity to take a project from start to finish with a well-defined set of deliverables.

This project will be guided and supervised by the health director. The community of Lynnfield is not accessible by public transportation; however some aspects of this project may be completed offsite. Applicants should plan accordingly.

Medford Board of Health (Middlesex County)

Needs Assessment / Health Education / Data Analysis, Entry, and Management

The Medford Board of Health is seeking an intern with strong community assessment skills and an interest in needs assessment design and data collection and analysis. The two projects of focus this summer include the following:

Community Needs Assessment and Planning:

There are currently multiple hospital-based community health assessments ongoing to meet community needs for the hospitals. The Public Health Department is looking for assistance to collect existing data, identify gaps, design and collect additional data and provide a comprehensive community assessment.

The intern would have responsibility to provide a comprehensive community assessment, identify gaps in community education programming, and inform strategic planning for the department to address needs in the community.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC):

Medford is responsible for the Mystic Valley MRC which represents Medford, Malden, Melrose, Stoneham and Wakefield. They currently have 200 + members who have joined to assist with Public Health response to emergencies.

The candidate would be tasked with providing a survey to all existing members to assess interest in training, design and implement trainings, and work with MRC members on opportunities to improve Emergency Response.

The intern will would work directly for the Director of Public Health. It can be challenging to get to City Hall from Wellington Station. Applicants should plan accordingly.

Melrose - Wakefield Health Department (Middlesex County)

Needs Assessment / Health Education / Data Analysis

The Melrose-Wakefield Health Department is seeking an intern with interest in health education and data analysis to assist with ongoing prevention grant programs. These include healthy eating, active living and substance abuse prevention. Proposed activities include:

- Assist the Mass in Motion grant coordinator in both communities with public drinking water fountain access project and Re-think Your Drink water promotion campaign.
- Develop a Healthy Aging interview tool to use with senior citizens and conduct interviews with key stakeholders to determine how the Department can further support senior citizens to Eat Better and Move More.
- Represent the Health Department at community events.
- Assist the Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Director in developing evaluation tools, input data and develop evaluation reports.
- Analyze Youth Risk Behavior Survey data trends. Present data to local partners (i.e. elected officials, school leaders and other key stakeholders)
- Assist with several substance abuse prevention (SAP) implementation strategies including supporting the Coalition's Youth Action Team.
- Research effective parent and community social norming SAP strategies. Prepare findings for Coalition Director and Coalition members.

The intern could additionally provide support to or shadow the following Health Department personnel if interested: tobacco control coordinator, senior inspector, food inspectors, public health nurse, health director, and canine control officer, and attend Wake Up Coalition meetings and/or Board of Health meetings.

The selected candidate would have space and a dedicated mentor at the Melrose Board of Health, which is accessible via public transportation (bus and commuter rail).

Middleton Board of Health (Essex County)

Emergency Preparedness / Needs Assessment / Data Analysis

Middleton is seeking a highly motivated intern to assist with the following projects. Based off the candidate's background and interests (general public health, nursing, or veterinary), there are multiple additional projects that may appeal to the selected candidate.

Community Health Assessment:

The Middleton Health Department created a comprehensive community health assessment tool and is currently soliciting data from the residents of the community. The

intern will assist in collecting data, analyzing, and will create a final report using the data collected for the Health Department.

Emergency Preparedness:

The intern will assist the department in creating online drill programs for the health department to conduct electronic drills for communication to partners in the event of a public health emergency. Additionally, the intern will assist in work related to the community's point of dispensing site planning.

Local Stable Regulations (Veterinary Students):

The Town of Middleton is currently in draft form of local stable regulations and the intern will assist the department in research and continued development of the regulations to prepare for adoption.

Middleton Health Department is not accessible via public transit; applicants should plan accordingly.

Needham Public Health Department (Norfolk County)

Substance Abuse / Outbreak Investigations / Needs Assessment

The Department seeks an intern to support youth substance use prevention initiatives through a variety of education, communication, and advocacy initiatives.

Youth Substance Abuse Prevention/ Drug Free Communities Grant:

The Needham Public Health Department is home to the Needham Coalition for Youth Substance Abuse Prevention (NCYSAP) which was founded as a community health initiative to address youth substance abuse. The NCYSAP mission incorporates a collaborative, community-based and data-driven prevention approach to reduce alcohol, marijuana and other drug use among Needham youth.

The intern will work with the Needham Public Health staff and the NCYSAP for approximately 10-15 hours per week to:

- Research and develop media messages for underage substance use prevention;
- Partner with local high school and college students to develop and deliver public service announcements;
- Collaborate with media outlets, community leaders, Coalition members, and residents:
- Develop comprehensive resource library for monthly public service message topics to be disseminated through various social media outlets;
- Communicate the policies, initiatives, and mission of the coalition to community agencies and departments within and around the Town of Needham;
- Assist with Coalition activity logistics for meetings including announcements, agendas and minutes; and
- Actively participate in professional trainings and community events.

Professional or academic experience creating public health messages and developing or assisting with media or public awareness campaigns preferred. Passion for substance use prevention and working directly with Needham youth on prevention and wellness is required (and highly encouraged!).

The selected candidate will have the opportunity to shadow Needham Public Health Department staff and participate in other programs including public health nursing and health agent inspection work to better understand the responsibilities and assignments of a local public health department.

Needham Town Hall is accessible by commuter rail (the Needham Line from South Station) and by the #59 bus from Watertown Square. Access to personal transportation is helpful, but not required.

Northampton Health Department (Hampshire County)

Substance Abuse / Health Education / Needs Assessment

Hampshire HOPE is a multi-sector coalition addressing the rise in prescription opioid misuse, heroin use, addiction, and overdose death in the Hampshire County region, through policy, practice, and systems change. Our goals are to:

Prevent heroin and prescription drug misuse and addiction; Prevent overdose from prescription drugs and heroin; and, Help more people get treatment and recover from heroin and prescription drug addiction.

The selected student interns will:

- Participate in multi-sector coalition meetings and represent the coalition at working group meetings.
- Develop a substance abuse data surveillance system
- Implement and evaluate evidence-based strategies; Collect data to measure outcomes.
- Develop a long-term strategic plan, logic models, and program evaluation.
- Engage community partners in sharing coalition communication messages.

This internship offers a motivated student to take a significant role in the opioid epidemic. The selected candidate will have a final set of deliverables to demonstrate their work. The intern must be able to offer at least 10 hours per week in office (Northampton) and traveling to meetings throughout Hampshire County.

North Reading Health Department (Middlesex County)

Environmental Health / Needs Assessment / Health Education /

The North Reading Community Impact Team (CIT) is a partnership between the North Reading Police Department, Youth Services, School Department, Parks & Recreation, Fire Department and the Board of Selectmen. The CIT emphasizes the use of innovative, non-traditional methods of impacting crime and the fear of crime and strives toward cooperative interaction between the community, law enforcement and town departments. The CIT works to identify factors that have a negative impact on the quality of life for all community members, from our young children to our senior citizens, and to implement solutions that solve the underlying problems.

The North Reading CIT is a recipient of a youth Department of Families and Children (DCF) grant. The BOH's Health agent is looking for a public health intern to work with the youth services program, and the school department on a needs assessment and data collection and analysis for the grant. The ideal candidate will have strong research and data analysis skills. The student may be expected to prepare surveys and prepare a final report to the BOH.

Further information on the North Reading CIT can be accessed on our webpage here: http://www.northreadingcit.com/

North Reading is accessible via public transportation.

Plainville Board of Health (Norfolk County)

Emergency Preparedness / Environmental Health / GIS Mapping

The Plainville Board of Health (BOH) is seeking an intern to assist with the following projects:

Emergency Management

The BOH seeks a student interested in emergency management to assist the health agent in updating existing plans and defining resources. The student will also take part in the duties below

- Updating town brochures and literature relating to storm water management;
- Health education for active living / health easting
- Distributing public health information to schools, businesses, and residents;
- Conducting informational sessions;
- Locating and mapping all catch basins, outfalls, and other related objects in town using OLIVER- MassGIS online data viewer;
- Conducting the necessary sampling to comply with the NPDES permit;
- Researching surrounding towns NPDES permits and collect information different from Plainville; and,

• Strategizing on future activities.

The ideal candidate will be familiar with GIS mapping and have an interest in environmental health. Certified Food Manager Certificate is a bonus.

The Plainville Board of Health is accessible via public transportation through GATRA.

Revere Board of Health (Suffolk County)

Needs Assessment / Health Education / Data Analysis, Entry, and Management / Community Health / Nutrition

The City of Revere is offering an intern the opportunity to conduct field work for Revere on the Move's Summer Youth Engagement Program.

The intern will develop a curriculum for the Summer Youth Engagement Program as the Youth Engagement Coordinator (YEC). The YEC will be tasked with providing recommendations for the emerging Youth Health Leadership Council which will continue through the fall and provide a forum for youth to voice their opinions on policy issues which effect their demographic. The intern will gain experience managing logistics and promoting Revere on the Move initiatives.

Duties include conducting community outreach, workshop development or collaboration, building relationships with partners and stakeholders to build summer curriculum, assisting in weekly operation of the Revere Farmer's Market, and working with all Revere on the Move staff on various initiatives such as Complete Streets, Neighborhood Organizing, and Healthy Eating Environment. A recommendation report on further developing Revere on the Move's Youth Engagement Program strategy is required at the end of the internship.

The internship will average 15-20 hours/week. Having a laptop and transportation to get around the city is a plus. Experience in working with youth and/or immigrant, newcomer communities

Revere is accessible by public transportation.

Shutesbury Board of Health (Franklin County)

Emergency Preparedness / Environmental Health / Data Analysis, Entry, and Management / Water System Mapping

The Shutesbury Board of Health is seeking an intern to participate in one or both of two ongoing projects intended to use data collection and management to further the board's public health goals.

- **Emergency Preparedness:** Development of a finalized emergency preparedness plan involving functioning self-organizing neighborhoods. Some entry of previously collected household and volunteer data. Identification of and direct interaction with neighborhood leaders.
- Water Systems Mapping: A geographical information and mapping project focused on wells and wastewater a high-density area of the town of Shutesbury. The intern will collect and record data on the location of wells, septic systems and other underground features, mapping the results using Google Earth.

Shutesbury is not accessible via public transportation.

Somerville Health Department (Middlesex County)

Needs Assessment / Health Education / Data Analysis, Entry, and Management

'Shape Up Somerville' is a department within the Somerville Health Department that "builds healthy communities through partnerships, programming and policy related to food systems and active living." We are entering our 6th season of running the Somerville Mobile Farmer's Market - a mobile market that sells local & affordable food in low income neighborhoods to improve food access. The mobile market is slated to occur on Friday and Saturday late morning to early afternoon from July through September. The intern must be available on most market days and will spend 10-15 hours per week on the following related to the mobile market:

Preseason:

- Help with ongoing needs assessment to improve market operations and customer experience for 2016 season.
- Research nearby farmer's markets and grocery stores to help with pricing and program improvement.
- Promote the market as a community resource to appropriate health providers and community organizations.

Market Season:

- Assist the market manager with market duties and operations during the market, including stocking of produce, interacting with customers.
- Evaluate market model, operations and sales data. Provide feedback on ways to improve the market for the second half of the market and the 2017 season.

The ideal candidate has experience in basic accounting, excel and data analysis skills. Experience in customer service a plus. Ability to speak Spanish, Portuguese or Haitian Creole a plus, but not required.

Somerville Board of Health is accessible via public transportation.

Sudbury Board of Health (Middlesex County)

Emergency Preparedness / Environmental Health / Data Analysis, Entry, and Management / Mapping

The Sudbury Board of Health is seeking in intern to assist in an environmental health mapping project.

Wastewater System Assessment and Mapping: Sudbury public records currently indicate approximately 50 innovative/alternative septic systems in town, many of which have been routinely monitored in accordance with State requirements. The intern will review current systems, design a data base for tracking such septic systems, and perform an assessment of current records for accuracy. The intern will assist the Health Director in conducting inspections of the systems, and contact homeowners and consultants for follow-up information. The intern will also work with the town engineer to transfer locations to the GIS system.

The ideal candidate will have an interest in environmental health and mapping. No experience is necessary but a science background with the ability to research and problem solve is high desirable. A basic understanding of septic system and small waste water treatment systems is a plus.

Sudbury Board of Health is not accessible via public transportation.

Tewksbury Board of Health (Middlesex County)

Environmental Health / Health Education / Food Safety

The Tewksbury Board of Health (TBOH) is seeking an intern with an interest in environmental health and health education to work on the following projects:

Food Safety:

- Food Rating System: The TBOH would like an intern to research and analyze a
 possible effective alternative to the current food grading system. The Intern
 would investigate and analyze other cities/towns that have a system by which the
 food establishments are more likely to follow the food code based on a sort of
 rating system. Knowledge of the Food code is needed.
- Food Recycling: The TBOH would like an intern to research and develop a food recycling program. This intern would investigate what requirements, which establishments in Tewksbury are required to follow these regulations, and establish a program with posters, brochures and presentation for all food establishments.

Health Education:

 The TBOH recognizes the need for health education and awareness with various risks and concerns associated with suicides, skin, breast and prostate cancers and substance abuse in Tewksbury. We are looking for the intern to develop and distribute educational materials. The Tewksbury BOH has recognized that the above mentioned topics have increased in our area.

The ideal candidate would have knowledge of Public Health, Environmental Health, and health education; excellent computer skills and ability to use social media.

Tewksbury is accessible via public transportation.

Topsfield Board of Health (Essex County)

Emergency Preparedness / Health Policy / Outbreak Investigations / Environmental Health / Needs Assessment / Health Education / Data Analysis, Entry, and Management / Routine Case Follow Up

The Topsfield Board of Health is seeking a motivated intern to participate in one or all of the following project areas in need of assistance:

- Review and Update Local Public Health Regulations: Assistance is needed in reviewing and updating each of the nine Local Public Health Regulations. Assessment would include comparing Topsfield regulations to similar regulations in other municipalities, and conclude with the intern making recommendations for updates/changes/deletions and presenting at the Board of Health Meeting.
- Backyard Chicken Coops & Avian Influenza Preparedness: Avian Influenza outbreaks in the Midwestern United States have brought to light potential zoonotic disease and safety concerns related to increasing numbers of citizens raising chickens and livestock in backyard settings. The intern would research best practices, and ensure compliance with State Outbreak Response SOPs. Prepare and deliver presentations to general public on how to safely keep chickens in suburbia.
- **Public Health Emergency Preparedness:** The intern would work with local officials updating current Emergency Preparedness plans, participate in EP drills, and make recommendations for future exercises and drills. The intern would attend local, regional, and state Public Health Emergency Preparedness Meetings.

The ideal candidate must be able to work independently with minimal supervision, and must be able to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing. The intern will also have the opportunity to observe/shadow environmental health activities (soil testing, septic system installations, food establishment inspections, housing complaint inspections, pool inspections, beach inspections, etc.).

Topsfield is not accessible via public transportation.

Townsend Board of Health (Middlesex County)

Substance Abuse / Outbreak Investigations / Needs Assessment / Health Policy / Mapping

The Townsend Board of Health is seeking a motivated candidate to assist with the following projects:

Substance Abuse: The Townsend Board of Health is looking to address a variety of substance abuse related issues through a comprehensive approach to opioid abuse, synthetic drugs, tobacco policy, etc. This would include a needs assessment, community outreach, policy development, and a feasibility study. The intern will play a key role in drafting town regulations to address substance abuse based upon their research and assessment. The intern would attend meetings with the North Middlesex Regional School district.

Hoarding: The Board currently does not have an existing protocol to address increasing issues of hoarding in the community. The Intern would research and partner with other communities who have existing plans and conduct site visits. The intern would assist in forming a Task Force to respond to hoarding cases as they come to the Board's attention, and drafting policies and action plans. (Task Force activities include recruiting volunteers from many different disciplines such as fire, police, mental health professionals and other service providers. The intern would develop a resource list of clinicians, support groups, municipal agencies, cleaning and organizing companies as well.) The intern would develop a scale system to rank and describe the severity of hoarding, as well as prepare minutes, event planning and on-site event assistance.

The ideal candidate will have an interest in public health and social work, as well as substance abuse and hoarding prevention activities. Mapping and needs assessment skills a plus.

Townsend Board of Health is not accessible via public transportation.

Wareham Board of Health (Plymouth County)

Environmental Health / Beach Water Sampling

In 2000, the U.S. Congress enacted the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act to improve the quality and safety of coastal recreational waters. The BEACH Act seeks to reduce the risk of disease to users of the Nation's marine recreational waters through the identification of high-risk beaches, identification and mitigation of sources of pollution, and notification/risk communication to the public. To comply with the enhanced regulations the Town of Wareham Board of Health collects routine water samples throughout the town during the summer season. The samples are tested for coliform contamination.

The selected candidate will provide daily sampling services for 18 beaches in Wareham used for swimming and other recreational activities. The intern will collect beach water samples and monitor bacteria levels for 13 weeks, beginning on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 and commencing on Thursday, September 1, 2016. Instruction of protocol will be provided for the first 4 weeks after which the intern is expected to work independently. The intern will be expected to take daily samples in knee deep water, complete chain of custody and drop the samples off at the Barnstable laboratory.

Must have own vehicle. After commencement of training, must be able to work independently and follow a tight time line for testing protocol and chain of custody. Must be willing to work in an outdoor environment under a variety of weather conditions. The ideal candidate will enjoy outdoor activities. The Local Health Agent will also provide additional opportunities for shadowing other public health activities per intern interest and availability, including outbreak investigations and inspections.

Watertown Board of Health (Middlesex County)

Food Safety / Needs Assessment / Health Education

The Watertown Health Department is seeking two interns to work in the following project areas:

Food Safety: The Watertown Health Department is seeking an intern to assist with a "Food Safety Education Program" project. The goal is to create a database for all licensed food establishments in the town and to develop an outreach program to deliver food safety educational materials and messaging on a regular basis, for targeted situations associated with current events, and for ongoing food safety reinforcement.

Specific tasks include:

- Development of educational materials featuring critical risk factors and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) control points.
- Development of Health Education Materials Distribution plan.
- Development of email or mail database based on identified method.
- Identification of creative training materials and methods to reinforce food safety concepts.

Multigenerational Healthy Living Needs Assessment: The Watertown Health Department, in conjunction with Live Well Watertown, is seeking an intern to assist with the development of a Community Health Needs Assessment Tool that will assist with identifying programming and other needs to support multigenerational healthy living and eating lifestyles for all populations, in an effort to combat obesity and inactivity. The Intern will assist the Project Coordinator for Live Well Watertown with the development of the Needs Assessment tool and a plan for eventual dissemination, collection of data, and analysis of results.

In addition to the two main projects listed above, Intern(s) will also have exposure to the many other programs administered by the Health Department and will have the

opportunity to shadow during inspections and training events. The intern will be exposed to a vibrant community with numerous community groups and activities, a busy Health Department office with a variety of community and environmental health programs, and a dedicated Live Well Watertown group.

Guidance will be provided by the Director of Public Health and the Chief Environmental Health Officer. Each project would have an ideal commitment of 8 to 10 intern hours per week. May experience food inspection field work as part of the education, and will have access to all needed materials and equipment.

Watertown is accessible via public transportation.

West Boylston Board of Health (With Supervision via Southboroughlocated Public Health Staff) (Worcester County)

Community Health / Health Policy / Zoonotic Disease Prevention

Avian Influenza outbreaks in the Midwestern United States have brought to light potential zoonotic disease and safety concerns related to increasing numbers of citizens raising chickens and livestock in backyard settings. The West Boylston Board of Health is seeking a self-motivated intern interested in influencing community health, developing best practices, and shaping local public health policy to address these trends.

The selected intern will assist the West Boylston Board of Health in researching and drafting bylaws addressing animals in non-farm settings (residential homes), particularly roosters/chickens/pigs/goats, etc. The intern would research State Infectious Disease and Department of Agriculture Outbreak Response SOPs and incorporate them into local materials. The intern would also design and implement a system for tracking residential animal activities to ensure rapid follow-up in the case of outbreak response, as well as design a method for addressing citizen noise/odor/fly complaints. The intern would research best practices and prepare and deliver presentations to the general public on how to safely keep chickens in suburbia.

Much of this internship project can be completed remotely. The supervisor (a member of the West Boylston Board of Health) is located in a Southborough Visiting Nursing Association office, and provides public health services for a variety of communities. The intern will have the opportunity to shadow additional public health activities through the supervisor's location (including routine case investigations, outbreaks, etc.). The Southborough office is not accessible via public transportation, however, and students should keep this in mind when applying for this position.

Local Health Internship Project Index

Abington Board of Health (Plymouth County)	
Ashland Board of Health (Middlesex County)	4
Avon Board of Health (Norfolk County)	5
Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment (Barnstable County)	
Bedford Board of Health (Middlesex County)	7
Belmont Health Department (Middlesex County)	
Boston - Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Office of Performance Management and	d
Quality Improvement (Suffolk County)	8
Boston - Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Bureau of Infectious Disease, Office of	
Integrated Surveillance and Informatics Services (Suffolk County)	9
Boston - Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Bureau of Infectious Disease, Division o	f
Epidemiology and Immunization (Suffolk County)	
Canton Board of Health (Norfolk County)	10
Chelsea Board of Health (Suffolk County)	
Cohasset Board of Health (Norfolk County)	
Concord Health Division (Middlesex County)	
Dartmouth Board of Health (Bristol County)	
Dartmouth Marion and Rochester Health Departments (Bristol & Plymouth Counties)	12
Dover Board of Health (Norfolk County)	14
Gloucester Health Department (Essex County)	14
Lawrence Health Department (Essex County)	
Lexington Board of Health (Middlesex County)	
Lynnfield Board of Health (Essex County)	
Medford Board of Health (Middlesex County)	
Melrose - Wakefield Health Department (Middlesex County)	
Middleton Board of Health (Essex County)	
Needham Public Health Department (Norfolk County)	19
Northampton Health Department (Hampshire County)	
North Reading Health Department (Middlesex County)	
Plainville Board of Health (Norfolk County)	
Revere Board of Health (Suffolk County)	22
Shutesbury Board of Health (Franklin County)	22
Somerville Health Department (Middlesex County)	23
Sudbury Board of Health (Middlesex County)	
Tewksbury Board of Health (Middlesex County)	
Topsfield Board of Health (Essex County)	
Townsend Board of Health (Middlesex County)	
Wareham Board of Health (Plymouth County)	
Watertown Board of Health (Middlesex County)	27
West Boylston Board of Health (With Supervision via Southborough-located Public Health Staff)	
Worcester County)	28

Local Health Internship Project Posting End