

Name of Project/Practicum Experience: Summer 2020 Student Practicum in Communicable Disease Epidemiology (CDE)

General Focus: 3-month practicum within the Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) CDE program for students who are interested in gaining understanding and a practical experience of working in applied epidemiology at a local public health agency.

TCHD Division: Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communicable Disease Surveillance

TCHD Office Location of project/practicum experience: [TCHD Administrative Office](#)

Type of Project/Practicum: Epidemiology/Biostatistics (projects involving study design, survey development and implementation, data analysis, surveillance of diseases, etc.)

Project/Practicum timelines and student hours

Approximate timeframe for project/practicum completion: 2.5-3 months, end of May-August 2020

Number of hours per week that student will be expected to work on project/practicum: 10-12 hours

Estimated total number of student hours this project/practicum will require: 120 hours

Project/Practicum Description

Brief Background: This practicum falls within the scope of the TCHD Communicable Disease Epidemiology program. Objectives of this practicum will include a variety of front-facing “boots on the ground” applied epidemiology work to provide a student with experience of working at a local public health agency. Core objectives of this practicum will include: case investigation, outbreak response, data entry, exploratory data projects, participation in CDE meetings, presenting at an internal meeting, interdisciplinary shadowing opportunities, and liaising with CDE community partners.

Describe the student’s job duties: The scope of this practicum will be applied epidemiology and communicable disease response. Through this practicum, students will be trained and tasked with a routine and non-routine duties necessary for response to a variety of communicable disease conditions. Routine job duties would include: case investigation, data entry, data reporting, exploratory data projects, shadowing of other TCHD divisions. Non-routine job duties will be assigned on an as-needed basis, for example, outbreak investigation, assistance at vaccine clinics, conference attendance.

What knowledge, skills and learning experience can the student expect to gain from participation in this practicum?

This student will gain understanding and experience of working in applied epidemiology at a local public health agency. In particular, the student will actively participate in communicable disease response while working closely with the team of communicable disease epidemiologists. As an applied epidemiology practicum, the student will be exposed to more “front-facing” work with clients, patients,

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Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program – Summer 2020**



and community partners. They will also have the opportunity utilize the Colorado Electronic Disease Reporting System, Colorado Immunization Information System, and other surveillance systems used by the CDE team. Exploratory data projects using communicable disease data sources will provide the student with experience in utilizing and analyzing datasets most commonly available at the local public health agency level.

How will the student be oriented to the organization and practicum?

This student will complete a training orientation with members of the TCHD CDE program. They will work with different members of the team for an onboarding process similar to what new CDE's receive upon hire. Additionally, they will receive direct training and oversight from CDE team members to prepare them for specific job duties (i.e. case interview training, outbreak interview training, data entry, data reporting, CDM). In addition to orientation with the CDE program, the student will be further oriented to the organization by shadowing members from other TCHD divisions and interagency programs (i.e. environmental health inspection shadowing, shadowing at immunization clinics, DIFT meeting, workgroup meetings).

What is the plan for regular meetings between the student and Preceptor to review progress on projects and provide feedback on the student's performance?

Initially, there will be daily meetings to orient this student to the organization, CDE program, and the scope of work. Once the student feels comfortable in the routine practicum duties and able to work independently, meetings will change to bi-weekly check-ins. Members of the CDE program will be available on a daily basis to address any questions, concerns, or needs. Unplanned/non-routine communicable disease response may result in additional meetings and trainings with this student. A formal review will be conducted with the practicum student at the mid-point and conclusion of the practicum.

What is the dress code that the student should adhere to?

The student will adhere to the same dress code policy as outlined from TCHD HR.

What should the student know about the culture of the organization and program?

As the largest local public health agency in Colorado, TCHD offers a wide variety of services to a geographically and demographically diverse population across Adams, Arapahoe, and Douglas counties. Similarly, the CDE program regularly works with numerous agencies, organizations, providers, and community partners across the TCHD jurisdiction and state. There is always an emphasis on collaboration, developing partnerships, and providing high-quality services to all clients and stakeholders that we work with.

Period of practicum experience:

Start date: End of May 2020

End date: August 2020

Schedule of work: ~20 hours per week. In the office 3 days per week, required day is Wednesday. Otherwise, the 2 other days are the student's choice.

Number of total hours anticipated to complete practicum: 120 hours