



Organization Name:

Cochise County Health and Social Services – Public Health Preparedness Division

Organization Background:

Cochise County Health and Social Services Public Health Preparedness Division was established to protect and promote the health of residents within our jurisdiction. We are actively involved in the community through communicable disease surveillance, environmental health services, outbreak response, and partnerships with healthcare providers and community organizations. We serve all residents, with particular focus on populations at increased risk for adverse health outcomes. This project will strengthen our capacity for foodborne illness surveillance, improve timely outbreak detection and response, and support workforce development through hands-on public health training.

Internship Project Title

Foodborne Illness Investigations and Data Management at a Rural-County Level for Upcoming Public Health Professionals

Project Description:

The purpose of this learning opportunity is to provide students with hands-on, real-world experience in foodborne illness investigations and public health data management within a rural county health department setting. Expected outcomes include developing the skills necessary to conduct foodborne illness investigations and accurately track, complete, and manage department-required documentation. Basic to intermediate knowledge of public health concepts—particularly in microbiology, epidemiology, food safety, or related areas—is preferred. The intern will collaborate with Public Health Preparedness staff including: PHP Director, PHP specialist, and Epidemiologist. Other communications may be taken with Environmental Health upon discussing with PHP. Workdays typically are from 8-5PM Monday through Friday. Assistance in person is expected, unless prior work-from-home approval is given.

Internship project keywords (check all that apply).

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Health Disparities | ☐ Reproductive/Sexual Health |
| ☒ Public Health Preparedness | ☐ Environmental Health |
| ☐ Collaborations with Community | ☐ Maternal/Infant Health |
| ☐ Collaborations with University | ☐ Tobacco Use |
| ☐ Community health service | ☐ Injury/Violence Prevention |
| ☐ Physical Activity | ☐ Immunization |
| ☐ Substance Abuse | ☒ Infectious Disease |
| ☐ Mental Health | ☐ Oral Health |
| ☐ Access to care | ☐ Evaluation |
| ☐ Nutrition | ☐ Policy Development |

- ☐ Program Planning
☐ Data Analysis

☐ Other Click or tap here to enter text.

When: When do you want the work done? Check all that apply.

- ☐ Fall Semester
☐ Spring Semester
☐ Summer Term

☒ I want this listing to remain active indefinitely and we will accept applications from students for any upcoming semester.

☐ This listing is only for a specific semester/term: _____

Where:

Organization Mailing Address: 1415 Melody Lane, Bisbee, AZ 85603

Address where Student will work (if different from above): Click or tap here to enter text.

☒ Check here if the student may have the option to work remotely from a site not listed above for all or part of this project.

Student Characteristics:

- Basic understanding of foodborne disease surveillance and reportable conditions
- Familiarity with common foodborne pathogens (e.g., Salmonella, E. coli, Listeria, Campylobacter, Norovirus)
- Ability to assist with case investigations, including reviewing laboratory reports and exposure histories
- Strong attention to data quality, accuracy, and timeliness
- Ability to help summarize surveillance data and trends for internal/external reports
- Clear written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to work collaboratively with internal departments and external partners
- Understanding of confidentiality and public health ethics
- Reliable, organized, and able to work in time-sensitive public health settings
- Interest in food safety, disease prevention, and community health

Level of Expertise Needed:

Do you wish to request an MPH program intern or an undergraduate public health program intern?

Undergraduate: The internship for undergraduates should provide an experience that allows students to incorporate classroom learning into public health practice.

Graduate: Applied experiences for graduate students should require application of advanced knowledge and skills to the solution of health problems and the production of at least two agency-based deliverables.

Both experiences prepare students for future employment.

- ☐ MPH
☒ Undergraduate
☒ Either

Supervision

Kimberly Mitchell, Cochise County Health and Social Services Public Health Preparedness Director. Kimberly has been supervising the Epidemiologist currently employed by Cochise County.

Compensation/Benefits/Professional Development

Is a stipend for work or travel available? There is no stipend available. Will students be invited to participate in internal or external professional development opportunities? If so, will funding be provided for those experiences (e.g. conference registration, travel, etc.)? Could students be included in publications? Please outline that information.

Application Contact Information

Students interested in applying can send their letter of interest, resume, and references to Cochise County Health and Social Services – Public Health Preparedness Division – Att. Kimberly Mitchell – 1415 Melody Lane, Bisbee, AZ 85603. Students can also email Kimberly at kmitchell@cochise.az.gov.