



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

MDPH Tuesday Infectious Disease Webinar Series

Tools for Local Boards of Health

December 10, 2024

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December 10, 2024

- **Local Health Internship Program**
 - Julie Coco, MPH, Local Health Internship Coordinator, Division of Epidemiology
- **Featured Presentation: MAVEN Features and Functionality**
 - Scott Troppy, MPH, PMP, CIC, Surveillance Epidemiologist
 - Kate Hamdan, MPH, Surveillance Epidemiologist
 - Lionel White, BS, Senior Surveillance Research Analyst



Infectious Disease Tools for LBOH Webinar Schedule!

2025 Upcoming Schedule!

All Registrations:	http://tinyurl.com/MAVEN-Webinars
2 nd Tues 12/10/24	MAVEN Features and Functionality
	<i>No December Office Hours</i>
2 nd Tues 1/14/25	MAVEN - Local Health Reports Review and eCR updates
4 th Tues 1/28/25	4 th Tuesday Office Hours
2 nd Tues 2/11/25	Pivot Table Introduction for MAVEN Users and ELR updates
4 th Tues 2/25/25	4 th Tuesday Office Hours
2 nd Tues 3/11/25	Case Investigation Updates 2025
4 th Tues 3/25/25	4 th Tuesday Office Hours

Please Update To
WEBINAR REGISTRATION PAGE:
<http://tinyurl.com/MAVEN-Webinars>

- You help us identify topics, needs, & content!
- Be sure to send ideas, requests, and questions to Hillary and Scott!

MAVEN Help has Guidance Documents and Previous Webinars:

<http://www.maven-help.maventrainingsite.com/toc.html>

**No December 2024 Office Hours
See You in 2025!**

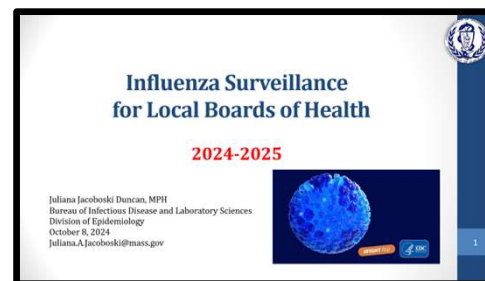


You can always contact
mavenhelp@mass.gov or
The MDPH Epi Program
at 617-983-6800 with
specific questions.

Updates – A quick recap for Dec. 10, 2024

October 8, 2024:

- **Respiratory Illness Season Overview**
- **Respiratory Dashboard**
 - Lizzy Mello, MS, DSAI
 - Emily E. Tyszka, MPH, DSAI
- **MDPH Mobile Vaccination Program**
 - Christophe Stuck-Girard, Esq., MPH, Immunization Division
- **Respiratory Illness Immunization Resources for LBOH**
 - Joshua Norville, MPH, Data Assessment Unit
- **Influenza Surveillance for Local Health**
 - Juliana Jacoboski Duncan, MPH, Division of Epidemiology
- **Respiratory Illness Morbidity and Reminders for Local Health**
 - COVID-19, RSV, Enterovirus D-68 & AFM, and Pertussis



Presentation: [PDF Slides](#), [Recording](#)



Always Remember you
can see recent
webinar recordings
and slides in MAVEN
Help.

Bookmark the URL!

MAVEN Help: <http://www.maven-help.maventrainingsite.com/toc.html>



New Training Opportunity!



Council of State and
Territorial Epidemiologists

- CSTE Learn has released an excellent new training: [Engaging with Sensitivity: Techniques for Interviewing Persons Experiencing Homelessness, Disability, and Substance Use Disorders](#)
- Designed specifically for health officials who conduct case investigations and need to ask questions about sensitive topics such as housing, disability, drug use, and sex.
- Examples include hepatitis C, Shigella, and mumps investigations.
- Self-paced, consists of several modules that total less than 3 hours.
- *Anyone can create a free account on CSTE Learn and access this training!*

<https://learn.cste.org/>



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Local Health Internship Program

Preceptor Informational Session

Julie Coco, MPH
Local Health Internship Coordinator
Division of Epidemiology

Agenda – Preceptor Outreach

- Mission
- Internship with a DEI Lense
- Background of the DPH LHIP
- Program Highlights, Sample Projects
- Student Experience/LHIP by the Numbers
- Why host an intern?
- Preceptor Timeline
- Preceptor Expectations

Mission

The mission of the Local Health Internship Program within the Division of Epidemiology at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is to provide students with valuable hands-on practicum experience while simultaneously enhancing the capacity of local and state government public health agencies.

Through a collaborative effort between institutes of higher education, local boards of health, and the state health department, we aim to cultivate the next generation of public health leaders and contribute to the overall improvement of public health outcomes for the communities we serve.

Internships Through a DEI Lense

- Internships are often where careers are launched and can offer the next generation a chance to break into their dream job.
- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has adopted skills-based hiring to recruit and retain the most qualified employees to provide vital services to state residents. The LHIP plans to follow suite.
- By offering a fair compensation, we can recruit individuals that may not be able to afford a part-time unpaid position.
- LHIP team trained on unconscious bias related to recruitment, hiring, and best practices.
- The LHIP has a commitment to creating a program that reflects the diversity of Massachusetts.

Background of the DPH LHIP

- Began in 2004
- Managed by the Division of Epidemiology, BIDLS, DPH
- Annually matches 20-40 students to local/state partners working on health science projects.
 - Students gain hands-on experience.
 - Local health departments/state partners obtain assistance with pressing projects.
- Access to mentors at the state and local level
- Shadowing opportunities
- Networking

Program Highlights



Paid Opportunity!

\$20/hr for undergraduate students; \$25/hr for graduate/doctorate level



Hands-on Practicum Experience

All things public health: inspections, infectious disease, chronic disease, environmental health, emergency preparedness and more!

Program Highlights



Shadowing

Opportunities to shadow public health professionals at DPH



Peer Mentors

Two peer mentors will meet with students once a week

Program Highlights



Abstracts

Gain exposure in abstract writing
(they will get assistance from
epidemiologists)



Mentorship Meetings

Networking opportunities with
leaders in public health



Closing Ceremony

Oral 10-minute presentation in front
of their preceptors, the Division of
Epidemiology and more!

Sample Projects (Titles)



Inspiring Wellness in the Community: Planning a Health Fair in North Reading



Community in Every Step: Using Key Informant Interviews to Develop a Community Needs Survey in Canton, MA



PFAS Education Materials to address Town Water Contamination & Community Concern in Hopkinton, MA



Accessing Community Capacity for Prevention of Youth Substance Misuse in Walpole, MA Through MassCALL3 Substance Misuse Prevention Grant Program



Mosquito-Borne Illness in Easton: Addressing Attitudes Towards Mosquito Spraying and Alternative Preventative Methods



Analyzing historical communicable disease data and communicating the importance of vaccinations in reducing disease burden to the Holyoke community



Developing Educational Materials for Food Establishment Operators to Increase Food Safety Awareness

Student Experience

- Students must commit to a minimum of 160 hours during the summer (June-August).
- Students may work more hours as required for school practicums pending prior agreement with their internship supervisor.
- Undergraduate students will be paid \$20 an hour for up to 160 hours of work (\$3,200).
- Graduate students will be paid \$25 an hour for up to 160 hours of work (\$4,000).
- Estimated number of hours required per week: 15-20 (Hours are flexible in most communities.)

LHIP by the Numbers

Recently we conducted a survey of former LHIP interns, here's what we found...

84% currently work in Public Health

54% work in Massachusetts

43% work in government (state/ local/ federal public health)

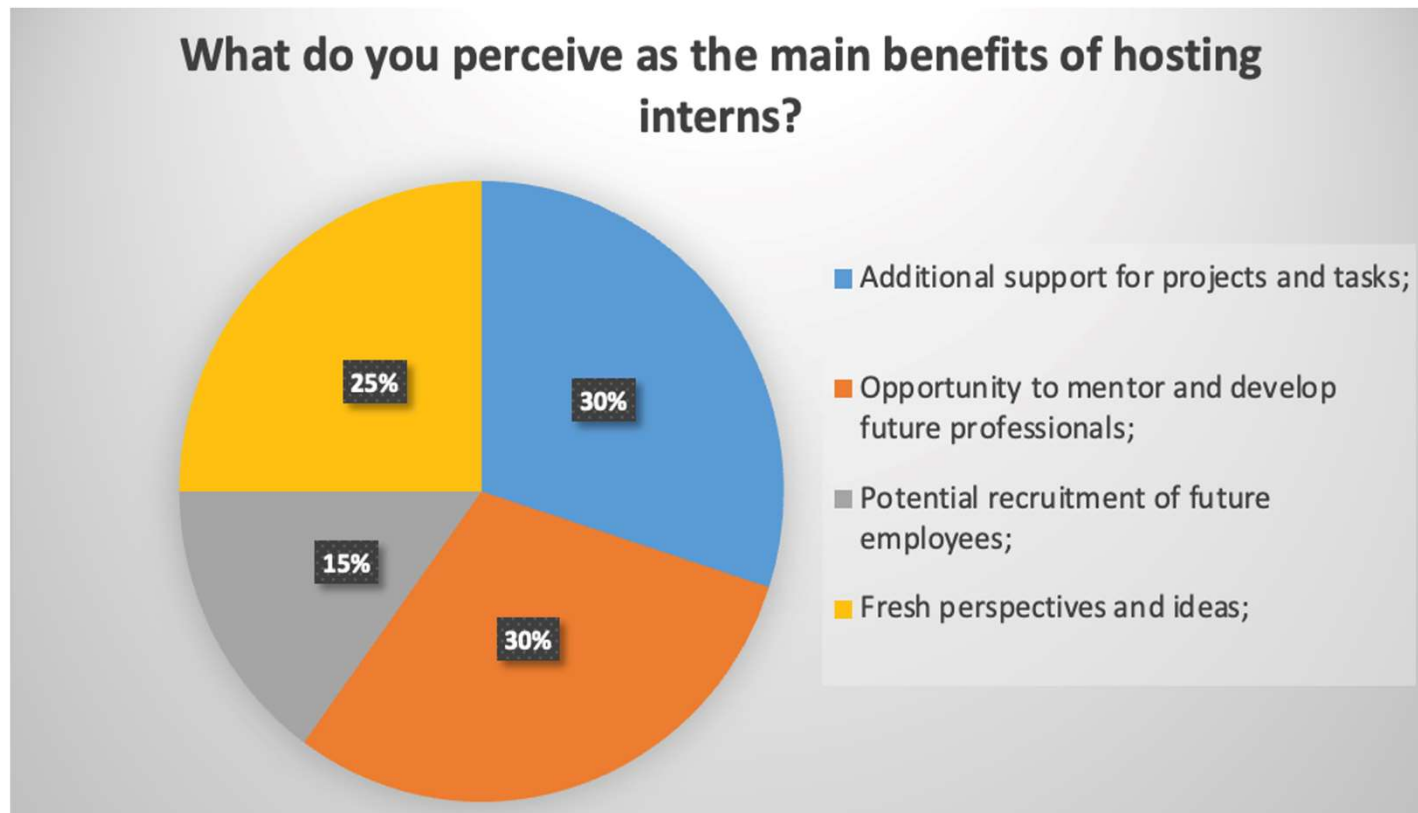
22% work for nonprofit/health care sector

100% of students surveyed completed their master's degree

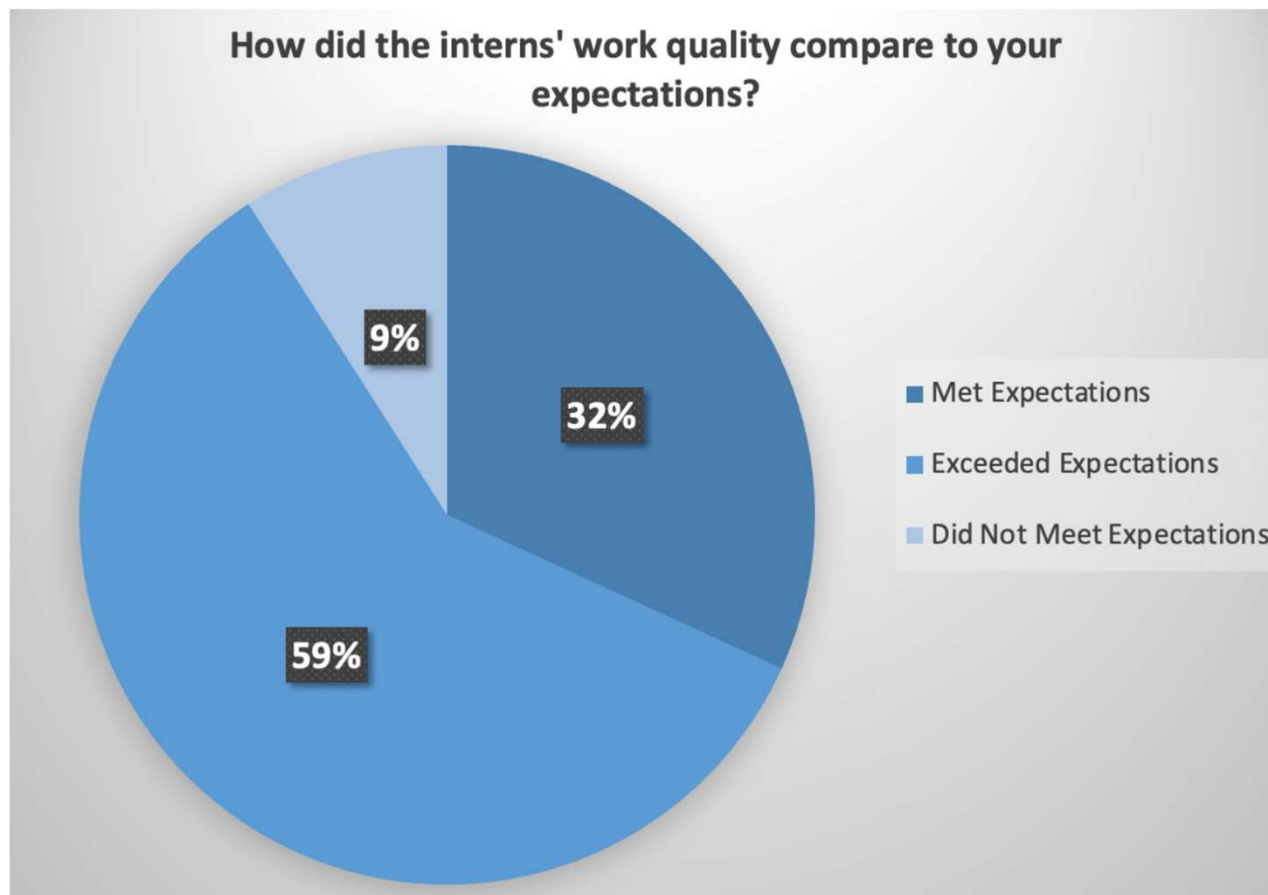
Why Host an Intern?

- Strengthen local health infrastructure across the state
- Introducing students to the important work being done at state and local health departments, and career opportunities
- Cost-effective: the interns are paid from the DPH Division of Epidemiology budget
- Increased capacity for projects that might not always be able to take priority in a dynamic local health landscape
- Fresh perspectives from interns is almost always included in feedback from former preceptors

Why Host an Intern?



Why Host an Intern?



Why Host an Intern?

Comments on the program from preceptors:

- "Though the interns assist in completing work that the Department might not otherwise get to, it does require a fair amount of the Department's time to instruct and direct each intern. At the end of the day, we see it as a worthy sacrifice to encourage more individuals to take jobs in public health."
- "I believe this is a great program. Each year I am eager to host an intern in hopes to expose them to as many public health topics as possible while strengthening their knowledge in the public health field and igniting their passion for the work being done in public health."
- "This program is such a fantastic opportunity, for both local health departments and public health students alike. I'm always amazed at how much they have to offer — and I'm reminded what it's like to not be burned out :) — and I love getting young people excited about what 'local public health' actually means."

Preceptor Timeline

- **Fall-Winter:** LBOH/state partners start brainstorming projects for the 2025 summer internship season.
- **December-February:** Project proposals due to Local Health Internship Coordinator (Due February 7th).
- **May:** Meet with selected intern to go over expectations of summer and sign agreement.
- **Late May/early June:** Internship season officially kicks off.
- **May-August:** Act as a supervisor for intern(s) and guide them along the way as they complete their LHIP project.
- **Mid-August:** Attend Closing Ceremony celebrating the achievements of the summer interns.

Preceptor Expectations

Define the Role	Provide clear expectations and guidelines for the internship experience.
Provide Support	Provide ongoing support and guidance to the intern throughout the summer.
Give Feedback	Provide timely feedback and evaluation of the intern's work.
Encourage	Encourage the intern to take initiative and show leadership in their work.
Communicate	Communicate any changes in schedule or expectations to the intern in a timely manner.
Mentorship	Serve as a mentor and role model for the intern, providing professional development opportunities.

Preceptor Expectations Continued...

Meaningful Project	Provide meaningful work/projects for the intern that meet the 160-hour minimum requirement.
Availability	Be available to answer questions or concerns that the intern may have.
Opportunities	Provide opportunities for the intern to participate in meetings and projects related to public health.
Resources	Ensure that the intern has all necessary resources and equipment to complete their tasks.
Coordinate	Coordinate with the LHIP Coordinator on any necessary paperwork or evaluations (this may include CPT paperwork for international students).
Update	Notify the LHIP Coordinator of any concerns with the student.

QUESTIONS?