



# Form 1: Internship Description

Office of Practice and Learning  
DSHS Internships

<b>Internship/Practicum Title</b>					
COVID Wastewater Project – Surveillance				<b>Preceptor Name and Title:</b> Dr. Natalie Archer, Senior Scientist, EEDRS	
<b>Brief Description</b> Include purpose and goals					
The purpose of this internship/practicum is to assist with COVID wastewater surveillance and data collection activities for several facilities in Texas. Specific activities may include: 1) Compile weekly COVID wastewater levels and 7-day average case counts for several facilities/locations in Texas (prisons, nursing facilities, and/or small universities); 2) Construct tables and graphs of data and trends, and update them weekly with new COVID wastewater levels and counts; 3) Create summary data sheets on a regular basis to provide facilities with their results, and contact facilities as needed to obtain further information; and 4) Write monthly summary reports for leadership, and assist in writing other reports and/or publications as needed.					
<b>Semester:</b> Spring	<b>Year:</b> 2022	<b>Length:</b> 1 Semester	<b>Total Weekly Hours:</b> 20 hours/week	<b>Paid:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Travel Required?:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>DSHS Division:</b> Community Health Improvement (CHI)		<b>Program:</b> Environmental Epi & Disease Registries Section	<b>Region:</b> Central Office		<b>Internship Location:</b> Austin or remote

**Population Focus:** Prisoners; Elderly populations; College populations

**Functional Focus:** Public Health, Epidemiology

**Dimensions of Public Health:** Epidemiology, Infectious disease surveillance

**DSHS Host Program Summary**

<p><b>Enter a brief narrative description of the mission, purpose and functions of the Host Program area within which the Internship is operated.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This internship/practicum is with the Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section (EEDRS) at DSHS and will be supervised by Dr. Natalie Archer, a senior scientist within the Section, and Dr. Heidi Bojes, EEDRS Section Director. The main functions of EEDRS are to conduct disease surveillance, investigate unusual occurrences of disease, assess environmental exposures, and to conduct population research studies. These activities are carried out to identify populations at risk, understand the cause of disease, and recommend actions to reduce risk.</li> </ul>
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## Internship Details

### Learning Objectives (minimum of 3)

What do you expect the student to learn upon completion of a successful internship?

- Gain public health surveillance experience by compiling COVID wastewater results and average daily COVID case counts by facility/location.
- Gain real-world practice creating data tables and graphs showing time trends and conducting statistical analyses.
- Become familiar with how SARS-CoV-2 is sampled and analyzed in wastewater.
- Learn how to interpret COVID wastewater results and trends.
- Improve the student's written communication and/or report-writing abilities.

### Intern Activities

What will the intern do during their internship? Use verbs to describe activities.

- Compile weekly COVID wastewater levels and 7-day average case counts for several facilities in Texas in an Excel spreadsheet.
- Construct tables and graphs of COVID data and trends for facilities, and update them weekly with new COVID wastewater levels and counts.
- Create summary data sheets to provide facilities with their results on a regular basis.
- Conduct statistical analyses of COVID wastewater and/or case data as requested, and help automate data collection and surveillance processes, if interested/able.
- Contact facilities (through phone or email) to obtain further information as needed.
- Update facility COVID results in monthly reports for leadership, and assist in writing other reports or publications as needed.

### Intern Deliverables (at least one)

What will the intern produce or complete at the end of the internship?

By the end of the internship, the student will:

- Provide DSHS with an Excel spreadsheet that includes weekly COVID wastewater levels and 7-day average case counts for participating facilities for the entire internship time period.
- Provide DSHS with summary tables and graphs showing weekly COVID wastewater levels, COVID case numbers, and time trends by facility, on a regular basis.
- Create brief monthly reports relaying wastewater surveillance results to DSHS leadership during the internship time period.

### Relevant Statutes or Policies

What statutes, laws, regulations, or policies are at the basis of the internship?

Work performed falls under Texas Health & Safety Code, Chapter 161.0211, Epidemiologic or Toxicologic Investigations.

## Applicant Qualifications

Required	Skill (check all that apply)	Proficiency (check one for each app.)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Microsoft Office: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excel <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Basic <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical Analysis applications (SPSS, STATA, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tableau or similar applications	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other software applications:	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
<b>Academic level and/or degree or field/discipline</b> Bachelor's degree		
<b>Other required qualifications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience using Excel and writing reports for class assignments</li> </ul>		
Preferred	Skill (check all that apply)	Proficiency (check one for each app.)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Microsoft Office: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Word <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excel <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Basic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced <input type="checkbox"/> Basic <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statistical Analysis applications (SPSS, STATA, etc.): R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced
<b>Academic level, degree and/or field</b> Working on Masters' degree		
<b>Other preferred qualifications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of coursework in epidemiology and statistics</li> </ul>		

## Application Instructions

Qualified and interested applicants must submit the following items to the contact below:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Application</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Letter of Interest [BR applicants only]</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Two letters of recommendation</b> Instructions: 1 letter from current or former supervisor if applicable and/or 1 or both letters from faculty members (in lieu of reference checks).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Resume</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Writing Sample</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other documents:</b>

## Contact Information

<b>Contact Name and Information</b>	Name: Natalie Archer, PhD      Title: Senior Scientist Email: Natalie.Archer@dshs.texas.gov      Phone: 512-776-6416
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