



CA Public Health Corps
TRAINING & PATHWAYS PROGRAM

Monthly Update
FEBRUARY 2022

What is the California Public Health Corps (CA-PHC)?

The COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the **need for a well-trained & versatile public health workforce**. To respond, the California Department of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles, & University of California, San Francisco partnered to develop & launch the CA-PHC Training & Pathways Program in summer 2021.

The CA-PHC is a **paid training & job placement program for early-career public health professionals** to gain experience working at local health jurisdiction host sites.

CA-PHC fellows & host site preceptors receive ongoing support from the program team comprised of public health professionals from the three partner agencies.



our mission

Create a workforce pathway for early-career public health professionals from diverse backgrounds & disproportionately affected communities to conduct communicable disease prevention & control, community engagement, & emergency response activities at local health jurisdiction host sites

Ensure a well-trained public health workforce across California that can effectively & efficiently respond to public health issues to ensure the health & safety of the population

What did the CA-PHC accomplish in February 2022?

TRAINING

8 hours of content delivered
(trainings occurred every other week)

Topics included...

- Principles of Epidemiology
- Strengths Building
- Retirement & Financial Planning
- Delivering a Data Story



FELLOW ACTIVITIES

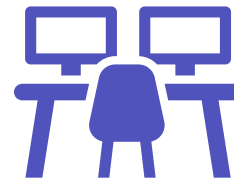
In addition to disease case investigations, fellow projects included...

Program & policy development

- Creating manuals
- Contributing to policy briefs
- Supporting quality improvement efforts

Community Engagement

- Facilitating & assisting with workshops
- Conducting community outreach
- Engaging with providers to enhance service delivery



ADMIN UPDATES

2 new fellows started intensive training

43 fellow support meetings

43 LHJ support meetings (with preceptors & fellows)

4 fellows featured in the County Health Executives of California (CHEAC) February Newsletter -- [CHEAC Newsletter Vol. 6](#)



FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Emily Nguyen (Pronouns: She/They)



LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTION HOST SITE
Amador County



EDUCATION
UC San Diego
BS Public Health



HOMETOWN
Westminster, CA

WHY JOIN THE CA PUBLIC HEALTH CORPS (CA-PHC)?

I moved from Orange County to rural Gold Rush Country to join Amador Public Health's team of twenty. My CA-PHC Pathways acceptance came with many daunting firsts - rural living, living independently, and owning a car. However, it was also exciting, and I always knew that CA-PHC wasn't an opportunity I could pass up.

After graduation I had a lot of enthusiasm for public health, but I still felt unprepared to work in the field. I didn't have advanced degrees and although I possessed a broad understanding of public health, I often lacked the hard skills or work experience to qualify for positions. I also lacked direction because I am indecisive and had so many interests within the field.

WHY JOIN CA-PHC? [CONTINUED]

Having CA-PHCs guidance as a new working professional has given me confidence in my abilities and a safe, supportive environment for me to discover my strengths, interests, and dislikes in the field. Public health is a major part of my life - it's the framework I process the world through, and different welfare systems have supported me with basic needs that have enabled me to thrive. As someone who benefits from and is passionate about public health, it makes me happy to see the CA-PHC Pathways Program invest in building critical public health infrastructure.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON?

My current focus is Emergency Preparedness. I assist with the Disaster Healthcare Volunteer program and fulfill and track community partners' COVID-19 vaccine, PPE, and test kit requests for the Emergency Preparedness Medical Health Operations Area Coordinator Program. I briefly conducted COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing (CI/CT) and reviewed COVID-19 vaccination records to identify records missing from digital vaccine databases.

Eventually I shifted my focus to the School Portal for Outbreak Tracking (SPOT). I helped Amador transition from a fax reporting system to SPOT, created and conducted in-person trainings, served as a point of contact for the schools, created standard operating procedures, and processed SPOT information through CalCONNECT to help with our CI/CT flow. I also assist with media, display cases, and the youth coalition newsletter for the Tobacco Reduction of Amador County (TRAC) program. Amador has taught me so much about rural health, community, and resiliency and I can't wait to learn more!

WHAT COMES AFTER CA-PHC?

I would eventually like to go to graduate school, but I anticipate diversifying my public health work experiences for several years after CA-PHC.