

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.