

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) invites residents and medical students to participate in an **elective in Public Health and Preventive Medicine**.

The DOHMH is a dynamic environment where elective participants can experience a large local health department tackling urban public health issues.

Elective participants receive a broad overview of DOHMH responsibilities and functions through field visits, meetings and lectures. They will also learn about the clinician/health department partnership in order to better serve their patients and communities.

The elective provides a unique opportunity to work on a project with DOHMH professionals. By participating in the day-to-day work of the DOHMH, the trainee—whether future clinician or public health specialist—will experience a variety of measures employed to promote wellness and prevent illness in individuals, groups, and the population as a whole.

What kinds of elective projects have been conducted?

- Outbreak investigations
- Hepatitis C control
- World Trade Center cancer investigation
- Epidemiology of domestic violence
- MRSA surveillance
- Prevention for persons with HIV/AIDS
- Nicotine patch mass distribution
- Restaurant worker health & safety
- LGBT health curriculum for providers
- Influenza prophylaxis in nursing homes
- HPV vaccine campaign
- Investigation of decline in mammography
- Teen pregnancy prevention
- Utilization of pharmacists in HT control
- XDR-TB
- Surveillance for human West Nile Virus

What other activities are available?

- Field visits:
 - Restaurant inspection
 - Lead poisoning investigation
 - Day care center inspection
- Grand Rounds
- Journal Club
- DOHMH seminars
- Board of Health meetings
- Meetings with community coalitions
- Meetings with DOHMH staff

Residents should be enrolled in an ACGME-accredited residency program. Residents training in programs outside the United States may also apply.

Medical students should be enrolled in an accredited medical school. It is helpful to have completed a basic medical school epidemiology course.

Elective participants are responsible for housing and financial support; stipends are not available to assist with these expenses. Credit for the elective should be arranged by the participant through his or her residency or school.

The DOHMH Public Health/Preventive Medicine Residency Program trains physicians to specialize in these fields. For more information, visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/phmrp/phmrp.shtml> or see reverse for contact information.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN NEW YORK CITY

In October 2001, cases of cutaneous anthrax linked to major media organizations were identified in New York City, followed by the diagnosis of inhalational anthrax in a hospital employee.

Action: The New York City Health Department conducted epidemiologic and environmental investigations, administered antibiotic prophylaxis to potentially exposed individuals, tested thousands of suspicious substances, educated the public, and provided consultations to physicians on suspect cases.

In late summer 1999, an unusual cluster of older adults with encephalitis associated with severe muscle weakness was identified in Queens. Subsequent surveillance revealed 59 hospitalizations and 7 deaths.

Action: West Nile Virus, an arthropod-borne virus, was identified as the causative agent. A multi-faceted approach of comprehensive disease surveillance, mosquito control, and education of the medical community and the general public was quickly implemented.

Preventable conditions cause hundreds of thousands of cases of illness and thousands of deaths in New York City each year. New York City is the nation's epicenter of HIV/AIDS and opiate dependence. Health disparities persist among racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and geographic subpopulations.

Action: Take Care NY, an agenda of evidence-based actions to maximize health, was launched. The 10 Action Steps of the program are promoted to the public, health care providers, and policymakers via media campaigns, partner networks, educational materials and tools for health care providers. Indicators are used to measure progress.

To schedule an elective, e-mail:

[**healthrp@health.nyc.gov**](mailto:healthrp@health.nyc.gov)

or contact:

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and
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for **Residents and
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
and MENTAL HYGIENE**



Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH
Commissioner