

Sierrah Haas, MPH

MPH Emphasis: Infectious Diseases and Zoonoses (May 2023)

MPH Applied Practice Experience: Sierrah worked on a project with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Riley County Health Department analyzing social vulnerability, chronic respiratory illness, and extreme heat across Kansas.

Current Position: Public Health Planner at the Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD).

After graduating from K-state with her MPH degree, Sierrah started working at SCHD in September of 2023. She creates and edits operational plans to prepare South Central Kansas for public health emergencies, collaborates with infectious disease staff to identify potential health risks, and designs and conducts exercises to prepare for response to these risks.

Career Advice:

Embrace the versatility of your skill set and resist confining your job applications to a specific position type. Public health thrives on collaboration, offering you the chance to engage with and learn from individuals regardless of your designated role. As a recent graduate stepping into the workforce, show interviewers enthusiasm to convey your ability to bring a fresh and positive perspective into their team. Throughout your job search, reach out to professionals you've connected with, even if it was just through brief conversations. Everyone started somewhere, and most people are happy to offer any advice, connections, or insights that they may have. Lastly, emphasize the value of your Applied Practice and Integrated Learning Experiences, recognizing that professional exposure is invaluable and highly sought after by interview panels. Your experiences will help facilitate a seamless transition into the role they seek to fill, so show them!

