

## Serina Taylor, MPH

**MPH Emphasis:** Infectious Diseases and Zoonoses, May 2018

**MPH Applied Practice Experience:** Serina worked on a project at the Riley County Health Department on the development of the Student Outbreak Response Team (SORT) at Kansas State University. The goal of this group is to give students additional opportunities to apply knowledge learned in classes to real life situations outside of the required internship/capstone project, while also providing surge capacity to the local health department.



Her project was completed under the supervision of Dr. Jodi McGill as her major professor with committee members Dr. Ellyn Mulcahy and Dr. A. Paige Adams.

**Current Position:** Disease Investigator in the Health Services-Disease Containment Team of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) in Olathe, Kansas.

After graduating from K-State with her MPH degree, Serina started working at JCDHE in August of 2018. She investigates reportable diseases in Johnson County residents after they have been diagnosed, and works to prevent outbreaks from occurring and spreading to susceptible contacts.

**Career Advice:** Her best advice for current students is to take advantage of every opportunity given to you, whether it is an educational seminar, a conference, an organization on campus, or a volunteer position with the school or a local health agency. Most jobs really like to see experience when you enter the workforce, while you will not get a full 2 years' worth of experience completed in your graduate school career; the six-month internship could be what sets you apart from other candidates applying for the same job.

For recent graduates looking for a job she advises them not to give up! Finding a job can be difficult and if you are stuck to a smaller geographic location it may take a bit longer, but opportunities will come. Keep in touch with your preceptor and/or your committee because they will have the internal connections about job opportunities.