



# State Hygienic Laboratory

## Intern/Practicum Project

**Location:** Coralville

**Project Title:** Measuring Success in Response to an Infectious Disease Outbreak

**Describe the project/work to be completed:**

The purpose of this study is to determine how to measure the public health laboratory response to an infectious outbreak.

The questions to be answered are:

- What are the key events that trigger recognition that the laboratory must respond to an outbreak?
- What are the variables for which the responses are similar regardless of the infectious disease?
- What are the variables for which the response is dissimilar?
- What key metrics could be used by a public health laboratory to determine if the response to the outbreak is successful from the laboratory's perspective?

**Number of hours per week:** 10

**Desired Project Period:** Spring, Summer

**Type of position:** Internship (unpaid)

**Desired Skills:**

Analytical and statistical skills

**Mentor:**

**Pentella, Michael A**

Director

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**Additional Justification:**

Research Plan:

Step 1:

- Determine questions to analyze an outbreak response and create a model.

- Identify the metrics, for example, turnaround time, that provide the most effective measurements of the response.

Step 2:

- Using the model, contact 5 public health laboratories to validate the model.

Step 3:

- Adjust the model based on the analysis of the public health laboratories.