

Fall 2025 – MPH Health Promotion Practicum Abstracts

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BlueDot Inc.

From September to December 2025, I completed a practicum with BlueDot Inc., a Toronto-based public health intelligence start-up specialising in infectious disease surveillance. My primary project was developing a prompt library to automate the initial drafting of Event Alerts and Assessments (EAAs), a core component of BlueDot's surveillance products used by public- and private-sector clients. This project responded to an organisational need to streamline analyst workflows and enhance consistency in outgoing reports. Working with other members of the Outbreak Intelligence team, I contributed to standardising the content and structure of multiple sections of EAAs and writing the corresponding prompts through iterative testing.

I also contributed to evaluating BlueDot's data ingestion pipelines. Specifically, I was given access to descriptions of the types and content of data BlueDot ingests, as well as their cloud databases and APIs to develop an evaluation dataset. With this, I wrote the code and interpreted the metrics in a page on the company's Wiki. Finally, I participated in routine tasks such as assisting with API data quality checks before client release. Ultimately, these tasks strengthened my understanding of how various tools and software are integrated into production-level public health surveillance systems.

Beyond technical work, the practicum offered many opportunities for professional development. Through weekly meetings, interdisciplinary consultations, and two company-wide project presentations, I refined my ability to communicate technical findings to diverse audiences, lead exploratory analytical tasks, and work within an Agile project-management environment. Overall, the practicum complemented my MPH coursework and deepened a wide variety of professionally-relevant skills such as evidence appraisal, data interpretation, and interdisciplinary collaboration.