

SPH alumna helped uncover the stories behind the numbers in COVID contact tracing

In her final SPH semester, 2020 graduate Sujita Adhikari joined Tarrant County Public Health's (TCPH) contact tracing team, calling COVID-positive patients to track their connections to other community members who may also have been exposed to the virus.

Adhikari said that even with a full schedule finishing up for graduation – toward her MPH in Maternal and Child Health, leading to a Program Manager position with HSC's INCEDO Office of Continuing Education – it was “really important to get involved” in this community effort.

She asked and answered patient questions and listened to their experiences, sometimes working with a translator to gather needed details.

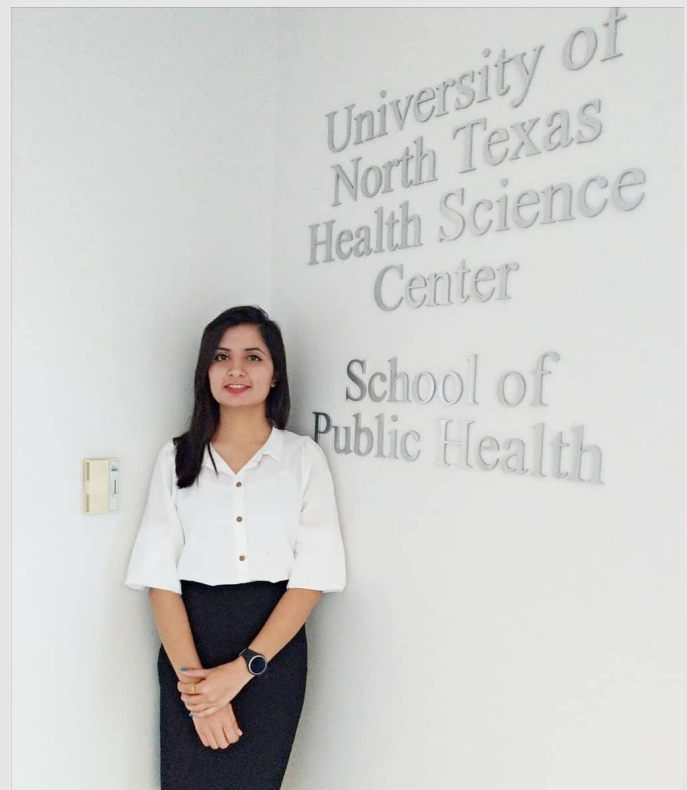
She rejoiced with those who were recovering and feeling very thankful.

She offered support and resources to those who felt concerned and afraid.

She was there for patients who were lonely, sad, not doing so well – and for those missing their families, those who had no families, individuals out of work, and the people who were unsure if they would have a home to go to when they left the hospital.

Investigators like Adhikari were key in finding community connections in the spread of COVID-19.

“I feel as though I was really able to help others and be a part of finding solutions,” she said. “It felt really good to feel trusted by so many patients who were relying on us during this very challenging time.”



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