

**Descriptive Text:** Green chalkboard background with chalk drawings of science and math activities. Blue CDC logo in bottom right corner.

CDC Laboratory Scientist Rebekah Tiller, MPH, (LCDR, USPHS), shares her story.

**Text on Screen:** CDC NERD Academy Public Health Careers: Laboratory Scientist

**Rebekah:** So I am a laboratory professional at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and I am an infectious disease microbiologist in a zoonotic bacterial laboratory. Zoonotic bacterial diseases are bacteria that are transmitted to humans from animals. And this is very important to understand this relationship between animals and humans. When a human gets sick with one of these bacterial pathogens, samples come into our lab

We evaluate those samples for our specific pathogens. And we want to learn more about where that bacteria came from so that we can help the people that may be potentially were exposed to it and prevent any more people from getting sick. So it's kind of the central part of the beginning of, you know, any kind of outbreak investigation.

Every day I use a lot of skills. Critical thinking is a big one. Problem solving is also something that I do every day. We use a lot of instrumentation in our lab computer science informatics, computer fluency is really important. So I went to college and got a dual degree in biology and anthropology after I finished my undergraduate degree.

I joined the United States Peace Corps and I served in North Africa for two years in Morocco. And then after that, I took a position with the Carter Center working with the Guinea worm eradication program.

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