

DISEASE CONTROL SPECIALIST I

NATURE AND VARIETY OF WORK:

This is professional, dually allocated, investigative work performed in order to identify, control and/or prevent the occurrence of communicable/infectious disease in the County. Subject to extensive public contact, incumbents perform routine investigative assignments in order to attain compliance with applicable programmatic/public health regulations, standards and laws. Field and office work is performed under close supervision of a higher level Disease Control Specialist and independent field judgments are made only on routine assignments, within the framework of established standard operating procedures. Work performance is evaluated in terms of quality, quantity and conformance with established guidelines, procedures and regulations.

Upon satisfactory performance, and after one year at the entry level, incumbents may be non-competitively promoted to the II full performance level at management's discretion.

EXAMPLES OF WORK:

Assists higher level personnel by performing routine, entry level professional investigative work regarding communicable/infectious disease.

Assists in providing primary prevention to reduce the incidence of communicable disease through vaccination efforts and disseminating information.

Provides secondary prevention efforts to decrease the prevalence of known or suspected infectious disease.

Investigates cases of persons and/or animal illness involving known or suspected infectious disease.

Identifies contacts to reduce their risk of disease and transmission of infection.

Disrupts the chain of disease transmission by coordinating appropriate individual treatment.

Engages in outbreak investigations; collects and calculates information on incubation periods, type and duration of symptoms, and demographic variables.

Obtains and transports possibly rabid animals and human specimens of blood, urine, stool, etc. for laboratory analysis.

Maintains registries and conducts surveys which provide indices of morbidity and mortality.

Calculates rates and proportions of disease in the community; formulates charts and graphs; and prepares related reports.

Documents investigations utilizing appropriate and required forms.

Prioritizes individual case loads in order to ensure adequate and timely disease prevention and intervention.

Cooperates with other agencies of the health department, state and local agencies and the private medical community during the course of a disease investigation.

Monitors medical/behavioral compliance of chronic carriers of infectious disease.

Participates in special projects as assigned.

Participates on the Emergency Response Team according to established Health Department guidelines.

May be required to use automated equipment in conjunction with assigned duties and responsibilities.

Willingly and cooperatively performs tasks and duties which may not be specifically listed in the class specification or position description, but which are within the general occupational category and responsibility level typically associated with the employee's class of work.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university, with a major in or a minimum of thirty (30) semester credits in one of the biological, physical and/or social sciences; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

ELIGIBILITY TO WORK:

Knowledge of the principles of public health and methods of controlling communicable/infectious disease.

Knowledge of interviewing and investigative techniques associated with the control of communicable disease.

Ability to express ideas clearly and concisely both orally and in writing.

Ability to evaluate and interpret epidemiological and statistical data pertaining to the control of disease.

Ability to prepare and present recommendations, reports and related investigative work products that reflect the objectives of the Health Department.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationship with officials, employees, and the general public.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

Candidates may be given a medical examination to determine suitability for job performance.