

PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST II

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is professional work of a moderately complex nature involving responsibility for providing education and implementing programs in disease control and prevention. General supervision is received from a higher-level administrator and supervision is exercised over a small number of professional and clerical staff. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Conducts communicable diseases investigations by phone and in person, in order to find disease contacts, especially in instances of outbreaks;
Conducts surveillance activities to monitor, control and prevent the spread of communicable diseases;
Performs community outreach by meeting with community leaders and groups in order to distribute literature and provide information on communicable diseases;
Performs venipuncture for Tuberculosis, AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections;
Acts as liaison with New York State officials in order to track the course and origins of communicable diseases;
Conducts special projects and studies, when assigned;
Provides education about sexually transmitted infections to Correction Officers and incarcerated individuals;
Acts as liaison with local physicians, laboratories and hospitals in order to gather and exchange information and ensure the department's compliance with reporting requirements;
Prepares reports;
Maintains a variety of records, including epidemiological and case record investigations.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of modern principles and practices of communicable disease control and prevention; good knowledge of basic terminology related to sexually-transmitted infections, tuberculosis, AIDS and other communicable diseases; good knowledge of public health rules and regulations, especially as they relate to the prevention and control of communicable diseases; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to prepare reports, including routine activity and statistical reports; ability to supervise the work of others.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

1. A Bachelor's degree in Public Health, Health Education, Epidemiology, Nursing or comparable degree and two (2) years of post-degree experience in professional activities related to communicable disease control and/or prevention*; or
2. A Bachelor's degree and three (3) years of post-degree experience in professional activities related to communicable disease control and/or prevention*; or
3. A Master's degree in Public Health, Health Education, Epidemiology, Nursing, or comparable degree which included or was supplemented by nine (9) or more credit hours in communicable disease control and one (1) year of post-degree experience in professional activities related to communicable disease control and/or prevention*.

*Professional activities related to communicable disease control and/or prevention include conducting community outreach, investigating and tracing cases and outbreaks, surveillance, etc.