



TITLE: EPIDEMIOLOGIST

FLSA: Non-Exempt

BOARD APPROVED:

BARGAINING UNIT: Misc.

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, assesses community health status via collection, analysis and reporting of community health status outcome data for the general population and specific targeted groups; explains the etiology of diseases; develops line lists; predicts occurrence of communicable disease and creates plans to control the spread of those diseases; evaluates health impact of department programs; and performs related duties as assigned.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

Receives general supervision from assigned or management personnel. Exercises no direct supervision.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This classification works in the Public Health Center and is characterized by professional responsibility for providing a department-wide framework for appraising the health status of a community. This is done by collecting and analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data, developing surveillance systems and monitoring the effectiveness of public health activities in addressing community health indicators.

EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (Illustrative Only)

Management reserves the right to add, modify, change, or rescind the work assignments of different positions and to make reasonable accommodations so that qualified employees can perform the essential functions of the job.

- Investigates reported cases, outbreaks, and epidemics of communicable and chronic diseases.
- Designs, develops, and administers line listings and survey instruments.
- Collects and compiles epidemiological data and develops and maintains epidemiological databases.
- Selects appropriate methods of statistical and quantitative analysis to identify demographic, geographic, cultural, and other variables linked to the incidence of communicable and chronic diseases; to identify sources of exposure and disease transmission; and to predict the probability of future occurrences of disease.
- Establishes and/or maintains surveillance systems to identify and monitor communicable and chronic disease (including injury) and health risk behavior trends among various population groups.

- Advises management and staff on the interpretation and implication of statistical analysis, survey data, and program evaluations.
- Identifies and assesses healthcare and health education needs of current and underserved client populations and develops plans to extend services to underserved populations.
- Serves as a consultant on active or potential disease patterns, causation, potential remedial actions and other relevant local health information to physicians, nurses, community leaders, public health officials, media and the general public.
- Prepares tables and graphs to explain epidemiological findings.
- Makes informational presentations to professionals, policy makers, media, and the public.
- Prepares a variety of reports for the Public Health Officer.
- Participates in Public Health Accreditation activities including monitoring community health assessment, improvement and strategic plans.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles and practices of epidemiology, demography and biostatistics as applied to health and social problems
- Methods for collecting, tabulating and interpreting public health and medical statistical data
- Etiology of communicable and chronic diseases
- Theoretical and applied statistics and quantitative analysis
- Principles and practices of research design
- Methods of projecting population trends and characteristics and sample size determination
- Professional literature and current trends in epidemiology
- Cultural and ethnic groups that make up the population within Tehama County

Ability to:

- Provide effective technical assistance, consultation, and where appropriate, training to public health staff
- Interact in a positive professional manner with client populations, elected officials, managers, supervisors, employees, healthcare providers and the community
- Communicate clearly and concisely both orally and in writing
- Utilize database, word processing and a variety of different software applications, including but not limited to CalRedie, ArcGIS, and SPSS
- Interpret data and draw valid conclusions
- Set priorities and meet deadlines

Education & Experience:

Any combination of training and experience which would provide the required knowledge, skills and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications would be:

- Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with 20 semester units in biological, social, physical or health sciences, public health, nursing, statistics, health planning or a closely related field and two (2) years of technical experience in public health epidemiology, complex data analysis or program evaluation activities.

OR

- A Master's degree from an accredited college or university in Public Health, Epidemiology, Bio-medical statistics, and one (1) year of demonstrably successful experience in the design, development and implementation of epidemiological research studies preferred.

License & Special Requirements:

- Requires a valid California driver's license.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Must possess mobility to work in a standard office setting and use standard office equipment, including a computer; to operate a motor vehicle and to visit various County and meeting sites; This is primarily a sedentary office classification although standing in work areas and walking between work areas may be required. This position may require stamina for long distance or all-day driving of vehicle. Finger dexterity is needed to access, enter, and retrieve data using a computer keyboard or calculator and to operate medical services equipment. Positions in this classification frequently bend, stoop, kneel, reach, and climb to perform work. Employees must possess the ability to lift, carry, push, and pull materials, individuals, and objects, up to 30 pounds, necessary to perform job functions.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Employees work in an office environment with moderate noise levels, controlled temperature conditions, and potential exposure to hazardous physical substances, dust, scents, and fumes. Tasks may require exposure to illness/disease, work related stress and hostile clients. Employees may interact with upset staff and/or public and private representatives in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures. This position may occasionally be required to work in the field and may be exposed to outside weather conditions.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER / AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
COMPLIANT / VETERANS' PREFERENCE POLICY / DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE**