

## **EPIDEMIOLOGIST**

### **DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:**

This is technical and professional work of a complex nature which involves the study of patterns in health outcomes and determinants of health for disease prevention and health promotion in Dutchess County. The incumbent will analyze, interpret and report on surveillance trends in health data, apply epidemiologic methods to the investigation of diseases and the evaluation of programs and policies, and support strategic planning and needs assessment. Work requires independent judgment and advanced knowledge of applied epidemiology and biostatistics for public health practice. The Epidemiologist reports to a higher-level administrator. Supervision may be exercised over the work of subordinate staff, including Biostatistician(s).

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

Typical work activities for incumbents in this title include those listed below in addition to those typical work activities performed by lower level titles in the series. They are indicative of the level and types of activities performed by incumbents in this title. It is not meant to be all inclusive and does not preclude a supervisor from assigning activities not listed which could reasonably be expected to be performed by an employee in this title.

1. Conducts and oversees surveillance activities to ensure timely detection of public health problems and monitors health outcomes and risk factors in the Dutchess County population;
2. Uses and advises on appropriate study design, data collection, epidemiologic and biostatistical methods, and ethical and legal principals in the investigation and study of acute and chronic conditions, including outbreaks, and other health outcomes in the community;
3. Designs, manipulates, and utilizes databases for analysis of health issues including Community Health Assessment, the Community Health Improvement Plan and the Local Governmental Plan;
4. Effectively presents data and communicates epidemiologic findings and other scientific information in reports and presentations for professional and community audiences;
5. Oversees response to internal and external requests for data and epidemiologic information as well as departmental program evaluation;
6. Supports emergency preparedness planning and response activities in a technical and epidemiologic capacity;
7. Promotes epidemiologic perspective in strategic planning; consults and provides technical assistance in program and policy evaluation activities;
8. Serves as a liaison with County and State agencies, the medical community, and other community partners in matters relating to health surveillance and community health assessment.

## **EPIDEMIOLOGIST** (Cont'd)

### **FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE SKILLS AND ABILITIES:**

Knowledge of public health practices and epidemiological research methods to monitor public health data, determine trends, and recognizes potentially significant occurrences;

Knowledge of the principles, theories and techniques of descriptive and inferential statistics;

Knowledge of public health procedures and practices for disease response and emergency preparedness;

Knowledge of a variety of statistical software tools for data collection and analysis;

Ability to analyze and evaluate epidemiological data, recognize significant trends and prepare recommendations;

Ability to prepare a variety of complex narrative and statistical reports and present results clearly, timely, graphically and accurately;

Ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with colleagues and partner agencies;

Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing;

Personal characteristics necessary to perform the duties of the position;

Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

EITHER: (A) Master's degree in Epidemiology plus one year of experience in technical or quantitative public health research or biostatistical analysis;

OR: (B) Master's degree in Public Health or a related field which should have included a minimum of ten credit hours in biostatistics and/or epidemiology and two years of experience in technical or quantitative public health research or biostatistical analysis;

### **NOTES:**

1. A closely related degree could include math, computer science, pre-med biology or nursing depending upon the course work. Candidates may have to supply transcript to justify relatedness of individual degree.
2. Your degree or college credit must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secretary of Education.

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