

EPIDEMIOLOGIST 3**Nature of Work:**

Under the limited supervision of a physician or higher level Epidemiologist, performs advanced level work by directing small teams of epidemiologists, program managers, data analysts, physicians and other health professionals in the organization of statewide programs to design, implement and evaluate disease prevention, investigation, surveillance and control strategies. Manages financial and administrative aspects of the disease surveillance, prevention, and control programs, usually in a specialized area of epidemiology. Hires and trains or assures training of professional personnel within that area. Assures long-term growth, development and training of personnel. Establishes a long-range vision for program structure and development within the context of the larger vision for public health in state. Prepares federal grants and funding requests for the legislature. Prepares significant policy papers recommending innovations in disease surveillance, prevention and control programs based on the best possible surveillance data and information from the public health and medical literature. Represents the interests of West Virginia's disease surveillance, prevention and control programs to public health or other governmental officials at a state and/or national level within the area of expertise. Performs related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

The Epidemiologist 3 is distinguished from the Epidemiologist 2 by a higher level of administrative responsibility and visibility at the state and national level. The Epidemiologist 3 is a technical expert in a specific area of epidemiology and is consulted by citizens, health care and public health professionals throughout the state. This upper level epidemiologist position in the series functions with a great deal of independence, and may supervise teams of physicians, lower level epidemiologists, and health care professionals.

Essential Job Function: (Any specific position in this class may not include all of the duties listed, nor do the examples listed cover all of the duties which may be assigned.)

Plans and oversees implementation of new or innovative disease surveillance, prevention, and control projects of state or national significance involving teams of diverse professionals from public health and other disciplines.

Continuously improves high quality disease surveillance, prevention, and control programs, which usually involves working with teams of multiple discipline professionals.

Investigates or supervises the investigation of perceived clusters and leads the development and implementation of remediation and other interventions.

Identifies and develops new and innovative data sources.

Provides financial management of disease prevention and control programs.

Leads teams of epidemiologists, physicians, MIS professionals, and others.

Establishes statewide priorities for disease prevention and control usually in a specialized area of epidemiology, in accordance with national guidelines and best scientific practices.

Establishes organizational and personnel structure necessary for achieving high quality disease surveillance, prevention and control activities in the area of specialization.

EPIDEMIOLOGIST 3 (CONT'D)**Essential Job Functions: (Cont'd)**

Prepares federal grants and other funding requests, usually as part of a team process.

Presents data and information to statewide or national groups.

Represents the interests of West Virginia disease control and prevention in the area of specialization to statewide and national government or public health officials and national groups.

Represents the interests of disease control and prevention in the area of specialization to television, print, and other media.

Represents the interests of disease control and prevention in the area of specialization to other parts of the Bureau for Public Health and the Department of Health and Human Resources.

Provides consultation to lower level epidemiologists, health care professionals, and local health officials on technical issues.

Assures that program specific data is complete and accurate, presented professionally, and disseminated broadly.

Leads the preparation and publication of reports, usually through professional team review.

Identifies critical research questions for special study and develops and implements needed studies.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge of leadership and management techniques.

Knowledge of the theory, principles, practices, current developments and techniques of epidemiological investigation and research.

Knowledge of public health administration practices and procedures.

Knowledge of the functions of public health and related fields at the state, local and national levels.

Knowledge of biomedical sciences and social, economic and political forces that impact on health.

Knowledge of epidemiology and public health in the area of specialization.

Knowledge of state and local government structure within West Virginia.

Knowledge of West Virginia's health care system and the major public and private entities involved.

Skill in oral and written communication to diverse local, statewide and national audiences of public health professionals, lay audiences, legislators, government officials, reporters, and other professional groups and organizations.

Ability to direct complex epidemiological surveillance, disease prevention and control projects involving teams of diverse professionals including public health professionals, information professionals, physicians and other health care professionals, and others.

EPIDEMIOLOGIST 3 (CONT'D)

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: (cont'd)

Ability to lead or interact with advisory groups composed of community, professional and government leaders.

Ability to develop and articulate policy recommendations based on scientific data, West Virginia surveillance data, and consensus of advisory groups, and epidemiologic and public health principles.

Minimum Qualifications:

Training: A Doctorate degree from a regionally accredited college or university in epidemiology, public health, veterinary medicine, preventive medicine, medicine, biological, physical, behavioral or environmental sciences including at least two courses in epidemiology covering additional epidemiology principles, methods and design concepts or at least two courses in statistical design and methods courses for the behavioral sciences, or at least two publications in two different peer-reviewed journals, and at least one course in biostatistics or other research-oriented statistics course; AND five years full-time or equivalent part-time paid experience in epidemiology.

OR

A Master's degree from a regionally accredited college or university in epidemiology, public health, nursing, biology, physical, behavioral, natural, or veterinary sciences, preventive medicine, or medicine including two courses in epidemiology and one course in biostatistics OR certification in infection control (CIC); AND ten years of full-time or equivalent part-time paid professional experience in epidemiology, including five years of full-time or equivalent part-time paid professional experience in management of an epidemiological program.

Substitution: Completion of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Epidemic Intelligence Service or public health prevention specialist training; AND five years of full-time or equivalent part-time paid professional experience can substitute for the required training.

Established: 11/21/02
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