

EPIDEMIOLOGIST 4

Nature of Work: Under administrative direction, performs advanced level work by directing multiple teams of professionals in the organization of statewide programs to design, implement and evaluate disease prevention, investigation, surveillance and control strategies. Manages all financial and administrative aspects of disease surveillance, prevention and control programs for the state Department of Health and Human Resources. Hires and trains or assures training of professional personnel, including epidemiologists, medical epidemiologists, veterinary epidemiologists, and other staff. Assures long-term growth, development and training of personnel. Establishes a long-range vision for program structure and development. Oversees grant preparation and preparation of funding requests for the legislature. Provides oversight for preparation of 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 government officials at a state and national level. Performs related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics: The Epidemiologist 4 is distinguished from all epidemiologists in the series by having the highest level of administrative responsibility and visibility at the state and national level. This senior epidemiologist position in the series functions largely independently of supervision and directs teams of physicians, any other epidemiologists and other health care professionals. This level of epidemiologist also handles multiple diverse programs whereas the Epidemiologist 3 usually handles a single specialized program.

Examples of Work

- Oversees multiple new or innovative disease surveillance, prevention and control projects of state or national significance involving multiple teams of diverse professionals from public health and other disciplines.
- Provides leadership that encourages continuous improvement of disease surveillance, prevention, and control programs.
- Oversees the development and implementation of new and innovative methods for disease surveillance and control.
- Oversees the financial management of multiple disease prevention and control programs.
- Leads multiple teams of epidemiologists, physicians, MIS professionals, and others.

EPIDEMIOLOGIST 4 (CONT'D)**Examples of Work (cont'd)**

- Promotes the establishment of statewide priorities for disease prevention and control in accordance with national guidelines and best scientific practices.
- Establishes and maintains an administrative and organizational structure necessary to support high quality disease surveillance, prevention and control programs for the State of West Virginia.
- Oversees federal grant preparation and preparation of other funding requests.
- Presents data and information to statewide or national groups.
- Represents the interests of West Virginia disease control and prevention to state and national government officials, public health officials from the state and national level, and national organizations.
- Represents the interests of disease control and prevention to television, print and other media, and to the Communications Officer for the Department of Health and Human Resources.
- Represents the interests of disease control and prevention to state legislators and other state government officials.
- Consults other epidemiologists and local health officials on administrative and technical issues.
- Assures that West Virginia data is complete and accurate, presented professionally, and disseminated broadly.
- Oversees the preparation and publishing of reports, usually through teams of professionals.

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 principles of public health management and leadership.
- 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 current events and the media market of West Virginia.
- Knowledge of state and local government structure within

EPIDEMIOLOGIST 4 (CONT'D)**Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (cont'd)**

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 oversee lower series level epidemiologists who are performing advanced level work.

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

Ability to oversee and guide development and promulgation of 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 an 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 six years full-time or equivalent part-time paid experience in epidemiology, of which three years full-time or equivalent part-time paid experience must have been in an epidemiology management position.

OR

A master's degree from an accredited college or university in epidemiology, public health, biology, physical, behavioral, natural, or veterinary sciences, preventive medicine, or medicine including two courses in epidemiology and one course in biostatistics; AND twelve years of full-time or equivalent part-time paid professional experience in epidemiology, including six years of full-time or equivalent part-time paid professional experience in management of an epidemiological program.

EPIDEMIOLOGIST 4 (CONT'D)

Substitution: Completion of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Epidemic Intelligence Service or public health prevention specialist training; AND six years of full-time or equivalent part-time paid professional experience, of which three years full-time or equivalent part-time paid experience must have been in an epidemiology management position can substitute for the required training.

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