

PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIAN DIRECTOR**Nature of Work:**

Under administrative direction, performs advanced management activities and provides direction, guidance and support for Zoonosis Disease Control Program (ZDCP) located in the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (DIDE) in the Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services (OEPS). Provides professional advice to the Director of DIDE and manages strategies for prevention, reduction and control of diseases of zoonotic origin and related food borne diseases. Provides epidemiological advice to the State Epidemiologist, DIDE, WV State Veterinarian and veterinary practitioners regarding new and emerging diseases of public health importance. Establish strategic plan for ZDCP and for leading the Zoonosis Task Force in the DIDE, including developing goals and objectives; developing policy; reviewing guidelines, procedures rules and regulations. Work also involves establishing priorities, standards, and measurement tools for determining progress in meeting goals; coordinating and evaluating program activities, including the grant for the USDA Oral Rabies Vaccination Project; leading in the preparation of the ZDCP budget and the budget for other Zoonosis activities, reviewing and giving recommendations for final approval. Serves as the State Public Health Veterinarian and as the subject matter expert in zoonosis disease control. Provides leadership, operational support, consultation and technical guidance to Regional Epidemiologist's and Local Health Department (LHD) Sanitarian staff. Plans, assigns, and supervises the work of staff within the Zoonosis Disease Control Program. Provides instruction and continuing education regarding zoonotic and related food borne diseases to the State Epidemiologist, DIDE and LHD staff. Consults with the Office of Laboratory Services on appropriate diagnostic testing for enzootic and emerging zoonotic diseases. Work is performed with considerable latitude for the use of initiative and independent judgement under the supervision of the Director for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and in collaboration with the State Epidemiologist. Also works closely with the United States Department of Agriculture, State Veterinarian, the Department of Natural Resources and management staff at the Department of Health and Human Resources, Office of Laboratory Services, and with other internal and external partners to maximize the effectiveness of zoonosis disease control activities overall. In-state and out-of-state travel required. Will also share on-call responsibilities with other staff members. Performs related work as required.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

The Public Health Veterinarian Director is distinguished from the Public Health Veterinarian by the management of staff, by serving as technical expert, and by a high level of individual responsibility and independence. The Public Health Veterinarian Director also serves as the State Public Health Veterinarian with the broad range of duties and responsibilities therein.

Essential Job Functions: (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, manages, and administers the intervention and control aspects of Zoonosis Disease

Control, including contributing to determine budget allocations for DIDE and Zoonotic Disease Control.

Oversees ZDCP operations, including disease control measures and intervention, animal control officer training, the Oral Rabies Vaccination Project, and special projects relating to zoonosis.

Collaborates and coordinates with other state agencies dealing with animal health on zoonosis epidemiology and surveillance, bioterrorism and emergency response activities, and educational activities.

PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIAN DIRECTOR (CONT'D)**Essential Job Functions: (Cont'd)**

- Provides guidance to the WV Bureau for Public Health, Office of Laboratory Services Director, and staff in tests and surveillance methods needed to identify and classify endemic and emerging zoonotic diseases.
- Establishes short and long term goals and objectives for the Zoonosis Control Program and provides leadership for the Zoonosis Task Force, working across DIDE and OEPS.
- Supervises Zoonosis Disease Control Program intervention and control staff; builds work teams that are effective and flexible in meeting the needs of customers in accordance with best business practices.
- Works with DIDE and other OEPS Program Managers to provide direction and leadership in developing, implementing, or monitoring Zoonosis control goals/objectives, policies, protocols, or training initiatives.
- Selects, manages, and develops staff through conferences, mentoring, training, and performance appraisal; prepares and completes all appropriate supervisory documents; prepares functional job descriptions and performance standard expectations; conducts employee performance appraisals; establishes priorities; develops goals; approves schedules and leave requests.
- Keeps OEPS Director/State Epidemiologist and other OEPS leadership apprised of important issues relating to the ZDCP and zoonosis activities in general.
- Serves as the State Public Health Veterinarian and as a consultant and subject matter expert for federal, state, and local government and public health officials as well as citizens, medical providers, and animal control officers.
- Prepares articles for scientific and medical readership and the general public; prepares written reports, press releases, articles, and internet postings; gives interviews with local and other media.
- Makes presentations at local, state, national, and international conferences for lay and professional audiences; maintains liaison and communications with a wide variety of public and private agencies whose activities impact the OEPS and its programs.
- Keeps current on issues related to zoonosis control, including zoonotic disease epidemiology and new technology for disease detection and control.
- Represents WV Department of Health and Human Resources at meetings, hearings, legislative sessions, conferences, and seminars on boards, panels, and committees.
- Directs the analysis, preparation, development, review, and revision of legislation and legislative rules affecting zoonosis control and develops the Bureau for Public Health's positions regarding legislative impact; serves as expert witness for the WV Legislature.
- May serve as Acting Program Manager for DIDE in the absence of the Director.
- May assist and provide expertise with USDA, WV Department of Agriculture, and other stakeholders on epidemiological outbreak investigations of zoonotic and emerging related public health diseases (e.g. avian influenza, other).

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Knowledge of current standards of veterinary practice.
- Knowledge of veterinary preventative medicine, community health, social and economic correlates of health.
- Knowledge of field epidemiology and public health practice.
- Knowledge of functions and problems of organization, development, management, and supervision.
- Knowledge of law as it relates to public health, veterinary medicine, and confidentiality.

PUBLIC HEALTH VETERINARIAN DIRECTOR (CONT'D)

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

Ability to deal effectively with people in medical, veterinary, public health, and state government professions as well as members of the general public.

Ability to evaluate veterinary and public health problems and make recommendations for policy and public health management.

Ability to plan and execute work effectively, maintain records and make required professional and technical reports.

Ability to interpret and explain public health and veterinary medical policies, practices and procedures to staff and the general public.

Ability to train public health, veterinary and other partners to collaborate on public health and veterinary investigations.

Ability to perform or supervise performance of descriptive and analytical epidemiological studies.

Ability to write complex policy and planning documents related to public health response, including public health emergency response.

Minimum Qualifications

Training: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from a college or university accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association **AND**

1) A Master's of Public Health from a regionally accredited college or university of public health with a major in epidemiology

OR

2) Completion of the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) two-year post graduate training program

OR

3) Board Certification as a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Preventative Medicine.

Substitution: A PhD in a public health specialty may be substituted for the master's degree.

Experience: Six full years of full-time or equivalent part-time paid experience in veterinary health or veterinary public health, or veterinary public health medicine.

Substitution: Completion of the CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) Program may substitute for two years of required experience if it is not used to fulfill the Training requirement.

Special Requirement: Must be licensed by the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Established: 8/10/2006

Effective: 12/01/2006