

## **PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGIST**

### **Definition:**

Under general direction plans, conducts and evaluates all activities related to identifying and controlling communicable diseases in the community.

### **Distinguishing Characteristics**

The classification conducts epidemiological studies in assigned areas such as communicable disease, sexually transmitted disease, maternal, child and adolescent health and other areas as required. This is a non-supervisory classification, but incumbents may provide direction to staff involved in data gathering/input and other support activities. This classification is distinguished from the next higher level, Senior Public Health Epidemiologist, who oversees the County's epidemiological programs and activities.

### **Essential Functions:**

- Designs, coordinates, conducts and evaluates epidemiological studies including determining the methods, areas and extent of investigation and data collection required for evaluating disease patterns and general health conditions in the community.
- Conducts surveillance activities to identify and monitor disease trends within assigned areas, including data collection in the field.
- Collects and manipulates data; conducts advanced statistical analysis of data; evaluates and interprets findings to detect trends and identify significant findings.
- Interprets and evaluates results of studies; assesses risks of communicable disease outbreaks and/or environmental hazards; provides information and makes recommendations to others regarding potential or active epidemic trends and disease patterns, possible causation and measures for preventing, controlling or mitigating the consequences.
- Collects, evaluates and maintains professional, technical and scientific literature and reports relating to communicable disease and related subjects to keep abreast of developments in the field and assist in solving communicable disease problems.
- Assists in timely and accurately reporting of epidemiological data as required by applicable State and federal laws and regulations.
- Participates in a variety of meetings, committees, study groups and task forces in the community.
- Develops and presents educational material on communicable disease control to staff, health care professionals and the public.
- Serves as a resource and technical consultant on active or potential disease patterns, causation and remedial actions to physicians, nurses, public health officials and the public.
- Works closely with the medical community, federal, State, other agencies and department personnel.

- Prepares correspondence and reports, including scientific and technical papers and assists in the development and preparation of project proposals for State and federal funding.
- Establishes and maintains effective working relationships with health professionals in the community such as physicians, veterinarians, nurses,
- laboratory personnel and representatives of other agencies in order to facilitate the reporting of communicable diseases.
- Performs other job-related duties as required. Incumbents must have the ability to perform the Essential Functions of the job.

Possession of a valid California Class C Driver's License is required upon appointment. Incumbents must have the ability to travel to designated locations.

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Master's Degree in Public Health with a major in Epidemiology or Biostatistics. Experience in a local public health agency is preferred.

**Knowledge of:** public health principles and programs; theory and application of epidemiological methods and principles; infectious and chronic diseases; techniques of analysis, including techniques of Biostatistics and the preparation of scientific research reports; principles and methods of designing epidemiological surveys, utilizing data sources and collection methods necessary to obtain information; modern statistical and database management software applications; public health laws governing communicable disease and their surveillance and control.

**Ability to:** identify communicable disease control problem areas; collect, interpret and evaluate data; draw valid conclusions, evaluate communicable and/or chronic disease surveillance and control programs and make recommendations for change where appropriate; conduct surveys, prepare correspondence and epidemiologic reports and evaluate statistics; communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing; keep abreast of new developments in the health field including changes in laws and regulations; work cooperatively and effectively with a variety of people concerning matters related to communicable and chronic disease control maternal, child and adolescent health and/or other areas as assigned.

A background check may be conducted for this classification.

All Kern County employees are designated "Disaster Service Workers" through state and local laws (CA Government Code Sec.3100-3109 and Ordinance Code Title 2-Administration, Ch. 2.66 Emergency Services). As Disaster Service Workers, all County employees are expected to remain at work, or to report for work as soon as practicable, following a significant emergency or disaster.

Revised  
October 2008  
#2075  
JS2075