

CITY OF ST. LOUIS CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION

CLASSIFICATION

TITLE: Epidemiologist

CLASS CODE: 5642

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:

Incumbents investigate and analyze information concerning the prevention, impact and control of communicable, chronic and environmentally-induced diseases.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

This is a journey-level professional classification in the Public Health Series – Adjunct Group job family within the City of St. Louis. Incumbents perform a variety of moderately complex duties. The distinguishing characteristics of this classification within the series include responsibility for coordinating and evaluating investigations of various disease clusters and providing training in disease prevention and control.

Incumbents work under general supervision. While workers require some supervision in most assignments, they are free to develop their own work sequences within established procedures, methods and policies. They are generally subject to periodic supervisory checks.

This is an individual contributor class, meaning the incumbent is responsible for his/her own work including output, quality and timeliness. Incumbents may, however, explain work processes and train others, such as new employees, in the same or similar job title. The individual contributor may serve as a resource or guide by advising others on how to use processes within a system or as a member of a collaborative problem-solving team.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (Illustrative Only):

(The list of duties is intended to be representative of the duties performed in positions within this classification. It does not include all the duties that may be assigned to a position and is not necessarily descriptive of any one position in this class.)

Designs epidemiological studies of disease occurrence including evaluation of behavior and/or clinical interventions.

Reviews and evaluates disease reporting and surveillance systems and prepares reports for program administrators.

Uses epidemiological methods to conduct or coordinate investigations, surveys and special studies of disease clusters and related public health issues.

Assesses investigation results to determine continuing risk factors and to evaluate control measures used in the studies.

Supervises field interviews of cases, potential cases and control subjects, and private or government officials to ascertain the incidence and prevalence of a disease.

Recommends methods to contain or control a disease.

Prepares final investigation reports, statistical analyses and summaries on completed epidemiological studies and evaluations.

Provides epidemiological training, consultation and information to health care providers, health division managers, local government officials and the public to enhance knowledge of communicable, chronic and environmentally-induced disease prevention and control.

Maintains contact with health care professionals in the community to encourage proper reporting of diseases.

Serves as liaison with federal, state and other agencies.

Performs other duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Data Utilization:

Requires the ability to perform mid-level data analysis including the ability to audit, deduce, assess, conclude and appraise. Requires discretion in determining and referencing such to established criteria to define consequences and develop alternatives.

Human Interaction:

Requires the ability to provide guidance, assistance and/or interpretation to others, such as co-workers, health care professional, counselors, educators, health care organizations and the public, on how to apply epidemiological principles in specific situations.

Equipment, Machinery, Tools and Materials Use:

Requires the ability to operate, maneuver and/or provide simple but continuous adjustment on equipment, machinery and tools such as motor vehicle, computer terminal, photocopier, telephone, and/or materials used in performing essential functions.

Verbal Aptitude:

Requires the ability to utilize a variety of reference and statistical surveillance data, such as public health, social and economic trends, local, state and federal regulations, epidemiological profiles, regional and geographical applications.

Mathematical Aptitude:

Requires the ability to perform addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; calculate percentage and decimals; perform mathematical operations involving basic algebra; interpret descriptive statistical reports.

Functional Reasoning:

Requires the ability to apply principles of influence systems such as leading, teaching, directing, planning and coordinating. Ability to exercise independent judgment to apply facts and principles for developing approaches and techniques to problem resolution.

Situational Reasoning:

Requires the ability to exercise the judgment, decisiveness and creativity required in situations involving the evaluation of statistical data to extrapolate disease probability trends.

Environmental Factors:

Work is normally performed in an office environment under generally safe and comfortable conditions, but tasks may risk exposure to adverse environmental conditions such as disease.

Physical Requirements:

Requires the ability to lift, push and pull books and presentation materials.

Sensory Requirements:

Requires the ability to recognize and identify similarities or differences between characteristics of sounds to communicate with others.

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