

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Classification: Public Health Infection Preventionist

Title: Public Health Infection Preventionist

Employee Name:

Program: Communicable Disease

Division: Prevention Services

FTE: 1.0

FLSA: Exempt

Represented Status:

Salary Range: 19

Position Number: TBD

Effective Date: June 1, 2020

Revised:

Definition:

Under direction of the Communicable Disease Supervisor, or designee, serves as the infection preventionist to work with healthcare facilities within Snohomish County on their infection prevention program.

Incumbent will review the program, ensure that existing standards and guidelines are incorporated into the program. Will review relevant public health issues to integrate into practice, serves as a consultant and resource person regarding infection prevention issues.

Work is performed under limited supervision requiring independent judgment and discretion. The supervisor sets the overall objectives and resources available. The incumbent and supervisor work together to develop the deadlines, projects, and work to be completed. The incumbent is responsible for the work, plans and carries out the assignment, resolves conflicts that arise, coordinates work with others, and interprets policies on own initiative in terms of established objectives. The incumbent keeps the supervisor informed of progress, potentially controversial matters, or far reaching implications. Work is reviewed in terms of feasibility, compatibility with other work, or effectiveness of results.

Examples of Work Performed:

- Conduct rapid infection prevention compliance assessment of the assigned health facilities to identify strengths, challenges, gaps and areas of improvement in the practices of infection prevention, healthcare waste management and infection prevention supply chain management.
- Identify infection prevention focal points from the facilities and support the facilities in addressing the gaps and areas of improvement as identified and agreed on with the healthcare facilities.
- Support health facilities in the preparation/extension of isolation rooms and alternative care facilities in compliance with existing guidelines and standards.
- Attend training of trainers and provide training to communities and facilities on infection prevention and healthcare waste management by using existing and agreed training materials.
- Identify and address procurement and supply management issues related to infection prevention commodities and equipment.
- Conduct ongoing review of facilities policies, procedures and guidelines to identify infection prevention discrepancies and make suggestions as necessary.

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- Provide information to facility committees and department managers to formulate changes in the policies, procedures, and/or processes which could reduce the spread of infection.
- Interacting with medical and nursing staff, department managers, supervisors, and employee health (occupational health) and other professional/non-professional staff members to provide resource information, resolve infection prevention and control issues, and identify new opportunities to improve services and reduce cost.
- Participating in outbreak investigations which includes knowing what constitutes an outbreak.

Associated Duties:

- Perform other duties as assigned.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Knowledge of the theories, principles, techniques, and practices of public health and population-based services.
- Knowledge of the transmission, prevention, and risk reduction of coronavirus.
- Knowledge of blood-borne pathogen control methods.
- Knowledge of educational/prevention methods and techniques as applicable to people of diverse cultures and backgrounds.
- Knowledge of quality improvement processes.
- Knowledge of SHD's safety policies and practices.
- Skilled in effectively organizing, prioritizing and coordinating work assignments.
- Ability to apply sound independent judgment, creativity and logical thinking to obtain potential solutions to unique problems and to make reasoned decisions within the scope of knowledge and authority or refer to the appropriate person.
- Ability to read, understand, interpret and appropriately apply the terminology instructions, policies, procedures, legal requirements and regulations pertinent to the area of assignment.
- Ability to assure that confidentiality is maintained as required and sensitive information is handled appropriately.
- Ability to be attentive to detail, consistently follow written and oral instructions and guidelines, and maintain a high degree of accuracy and complete records.
- Ability to work both independently and cooperatively within a collaborative team-oriented environment.
- Ability to gain the confidence of and establish rapport with persons of diverse backgrounds and cultures.
- Ability to fulfill the commitment of the District to provide outstanding customer service.
- Ability to maintain current knowledge for assigned areas and adapt to new technologies, keeping technical skills up to date.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with team members, staff, Health District officials, colleagues, other professionals and the public, especially high-risk populations.
- Ability to listen to and communicate effectively, orally and in writing, to a variety of audiences.
- Ability to plan, organize, coordinate, and supervise programs and to develop results-oriented goals and objectives.
- Ability to coordinate actions with staff and involved parties during communicable disease outbreaks.

Job Location, Working Conditions and Equipment Utilized:

Work is primarily performed in an office or clinical setting. Work may be performed at outreach sites, in clients' homes, work, or other sites as needed; Work requires ability to operate an automobile. Equipment utilized includes standard office equipment, desktop or laptop computer and audiovisual equipment. The use of laboratory equipment such as specimen containers. The incumbent may be exposed to individuals who are irate or hostile. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

Required Physical Traits:

The physical demands described below are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. Working conditions and physical demands vary by assignment.

- Requires manual and finger dexterity and hand-eye-arm coordination to write and to operate computers and a variety of general office equipment. Requires mobility to accomplish other desktop work, retrieve files, and to move to various District locations.
- Requires visual acuity to read computer screens, printed materials, and detailed information; specific vision abilities required by this classification include close vision, distance vision and color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.
- Required to use hand to eye coordination, handle, feel or operate objects, tools, or controls.
- May involve occasional kneeling, squatting, crouching, stooping, crawling, standing, bending, climbing (to stack, store or retrieve supplies or various office equipment or files).
- The incumbent is frequently required to stand and/or walk for extended periods of time; walk on uneven surfaces; sit; climb or balance; stoop, kneel crouch, or crawl; and smell in the performance of field and office duties.
- Duties require the incumbent to carry supplies and/or equipment up and down stairs as well as into and out of a vehicle on a daily basis. Lifting and carrying up to 20 pounds is required continuously, and up to 50 pounds occasionally.
- Requires ability to drive an automobile and/or have sufficient mobility to access various work locations.
- Requires the ability to communicate with others orally, face to face and by telephone.

Education and Experience Required:

Education: Bachelor's Degree, from an accredited institution, in nursing, public health, epidemiology, microbiology, clinical laboratory science, medical technology, global health, disease control or any related field.

Experience: At least three (3) years' experience in healthcare settings, field epidemiology or emergency management.

Or: In place of the above requirement, the incumbent may possess any combination of relevant education and experience which would demonstrate the individual's knowledge, skill, and ability to perform the essential duties and responsibilities listed above.

Licenses, Certifications and Other:

- Certification in Infection Prevention and Control (CIC), *preferred*
- Master's Degree in nursing, epidemiology, public health or related field, *preferred*.
- Valid Washington State Driver's license or ability to obtain one within 30 days of hire and a driving record which meets the requirements of Snohomish Health District's insurance carrier
- Background check pursuant to RCW 43.43.830

Acknowledgement: Position description reviewed by Employee and Manager

Employee Signature: _____ Date: _____

Assistant Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Division Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Human Resources Signature: _____ Date: _____

The statements contained herein reflect general details as necessary to describe the principal functions of this job, the level of knowledge and skill typically required, and the scope of responsibility, but should not be considered an all-inclusive listing of work requirements. Individuals may perform other duties as assigned including work in other functional areas to cover absences or relief, to equalize peak work periods, or otherwise to balance the workload.