

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CLASS

The CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGIST provides consultation and training on communicable disease control; and plans, conducts, and prepares reports on outbreak investigations and other epidemiological studies.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

This is a single classification and not currently part of a series of classes.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Allocation of positions to this class will depend on the total work performed which may include one or a combination of the duties or tasks listed below.

- 1. Communicable Disease Control Consultation.** Typical tasks: provides oral and written consultation to local health department staff members and administrators on complex, nonroutine communicable disease control issues including individual case investigations, outbreak investigations, and control measures within households, day-care facilities, hospitals, schools, nursing homes, food service facilities, and the general community; provides consultation to local health department staff on the development of standard nursing procedures pertaining to communicable disease control; provides consultation to licensed health care providers including doctors, nurses, dentists, and laboratory workers, and to facilities including hospitals, nursing homes, group-care homes, day-care facilities, and schools regarding infection control procedures. Consultations pertain to all reportable communicable diseases.
- 2. Communicable Disease Control Training.** Typical tasks: plans, organizes, and conducts technical and administrative training in communicable disease control for local health department nurses, sanitarians, and doctors, as well as health professionals in hospitals, nursing homes, and other private sector settings. Training content includes basic science information, as well as practical control measures for all reportable communicable diseases. Infection control in health care facilities is an area of special emphasis.
- 3. Communicable Disease Control Administration.** Typical tasks: conceptualizes and writes communicable disease control policies, guidelines, and procedures for use in local health departments, hospitals, nursing homes, day-care facilities, schools, and other settings; conducts reviews of local health department communicable disease control programs and makes recommendations for program improvement; reviews selected communicable disease case reports for program evaluation and planning purposes.
- 4. Epidemiologic Studies.** This includes investigation of outbreaks, performance of formal case control, or cohort studies of significant health issues, and surveillance of health problems. Typical tasks: determines the most appropriate way to study an identified health question; plans the epidemiologic study of the question, including identification of the study population, questionnaire design, analytical design, identification and organization of resources needed, and writing a specific project proposal; conducts the epidemiological study, including training interviewers and clerical staff in project-specific tasks as necessary, identifying subjects from whom biological specimens are to be obtained, assuring

quality control of the data collection and data entry, and performing the analysis of the data; prepares formal written and oral reports of the study, including a description of the methods used, the findings, and the interpretation of the findings.

5. Miscellaneous. Typical tasks: participates in intraand interagency committees regarding communicable disease control policy development; gives formal presentations to general public groups as needed; responds to inquiries from the news media as needed.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

Employees in this class have regular contact in person, by telephone, and by written correspondence with nurses, physicians, sanitarians, local health department administrators, hospital infection control specialists, nursing directors from hospitals and nursing homes, day-care operators, and the general public to provide consultation and information regarding communicable disease control issues. Employees in this class have periodic contact by telephone or in writing with Federal agency and academic institution staff to give and receive information.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Employees in this class receive general supervision from the section manager who reviews work periodically through oral discussion and evaluation of written documents produced. Work is reviewed for compliance with Federal and State statutes, rules, and regulations applicable to disease control, and agency policies, procedures, and guidelines.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Positions in this class require the willingness to travel periodically to sites of investigations and special studies.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES (KSA)

Extensive knowledge of microbiology and the basic mechanisms of communicable disease causation.

Extensive knowledge of public health measures for the control of communicable diseases.

Extensive knowledge of medical terminology pertaining to communicable diseases.

General knowledge of infection control procedures for hospitals, nursing homes, other health-care settings, and day-care facilities.

General knowledge of medical diagnostic and treatment procedures and immunization practices for communicable diseases.

General knowledge of the principles and methods of epidemiology, including study design, analytical procedures, and interpretative methods.

General knowledge of the principles and methods of biostatistics and demography.

General knowledge of the methods of preparing written scientific reports.

General knowledge of the principles and methods of disease surveillance.

General knowledge of clinical disease presentations and different disease diagnosis.

Basic knowledge of methods of managing and analyzing data by computer.

Skill in communicating highly technical information concisely and clearly to a variety of health professionals in consultation and formal training settings.

Skill in gathering facts, interpreting them, and making recommendations based upon those facts.

Skill in monitoring data collection and data entry to assure quality control.

Skill in applying routine biostatistical techniques to the analysis of epidemiologic data.

Skill in evaluating epidemiologic data to develop valid interpretations of the data.

Skill in working with a variety of people with differing levels of technical knowledge to achieve efficient and reliable completion of epidemiologic studies and to carry out effective communicable disease control measures.

Skill in the design and maintenance of surveillance systems to monitor the occurrence of disease or other health events.

Skill in writing scientific reports of investigations and special studies.

Skill in diagnosing and treating communicable diseases.

Ability to plan outbreak investigations and other epidemiologic studies.

Ability to organize the conduct of an outbreak investigation or other epidemiologic study.

Ability to provide technical consultation to local health department staff and other agency personnel.

Ability to design, conduct, and analyze intervention techniques.

Ability to evaluate treatments and effects of medical interventions.

NOTE: The KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS are required for initial consideration. ABILITIES may be required for initial consideration, at any time during the selection process, or during a trial service period as a final stage of the selection process. Some duties performed by positions in this class may require

different KSA's. No attempt is made to describe every KSA required for **all** positions in this class. Additional KSA requirements will be explained on the recruiting announcement.

Adopted 4/90

Revised

Examples of work are typical of duties assigned to this class. No attempt is made to describe every duty performed by all positions in this class.