



Public Health Microbiologist (Entry)

CLASS SPECIFICATION

DEFINITION

Under general supervision, performs a variety of technical laboratory examinations to detect and identify microbial disease agents in support of public health and clinic operations, and communicable disease control; performs related duties assigned.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

This class is the entry level for the Public Health Microbiologist series. Incumbents work with more experienced staff learning and performing duties in the diagnostic/reference laboratory of the Public Health Department; they may occasionally perform some duties in the outpatient laboratory or clinics. Incumbents of this class are responsible to learn and perform laboratory examinations and help more experienced microbiologists while developing the expertise needed to perform at the fully qualified working level. This class is distinguished from Public Health Microbiologist in that the latter is the full working level and is expected to work independently in the diagnostic/reference laboratory of the Public Health Department as well as outpatient laboratory or clinics.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Receives direction and leadership from more experienced Public Health Microbiologist staff.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES - *Duties may include but are not limited to the following:*

Performs routine microbiological and related biological, serological, and biochemical examinations for the detection and identification of microbial, fungal, parasitic, and viral agents of disease, using defined procedures.

Performs routine examinations for the detection and identification of agents of communicable disease in matters pertinent to public health, outbreaks and emerging infectious diseases, using defined procedures.

Performs microbiological, physical, and chemical examinations of food, water, and other substances important to environmental sanitation, using defined procedures.

Prepares specimens for examination by using various stains, reagents, and equipment; learns to operate and maintain surgical and laboratory equipment.

Performs quality control measures to ensure accuracy of results by using standardized tests on known pathogens kept in stock; learns to analyze and interpret laboratory data; learns to maintain records and prepare reports.

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Assists with the planning, development, review, and evaluation of procedures, products, methods, and techniques.

Consults with private physicians, health professionals, and agencies on matter related to laboratory methods, procedures, findings, and analyses.

EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE

Applicants must demonstrate possession of and competency in requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities.

A Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited college or university with a concentration in Microbiology or one of the related life sciences, is required.

Knowledge of:

Knowledge of bacteriological, serological, mycological, parasitological, virological, and other microbiological testing procedures and methods.

Knowledge of the use equipment in a Public Health Laboratory. Knowledge that will enable incumbent to perform microbiological tests. Knowledge of principles of microbiology.

Knowledge of quality control practices used in laboratory work. Knowledge of terminology commonly used in a Public Health Laboratory. Knowledge of public health regulations and procedures.

Abilities:

Ability to perform a variety of microbiological tests; make decisions and independent judgments; communicate effectively both verbally and in writing; ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships; to collect and analyze data to draw logical conclusions and make appropriate recommendations; maintain accurate records and document actions taken; understand and follow detailed oral and written directions; research regulations, procedures and/or technical reference materials; maintain confidentiality of information.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

A Public Health Microbiologist certificate or Clinical Laboratory Scientist license issued by the California Department of Public Health, Laboratory Field Services is desirable; alternatively, must be eligible to receive a Public Health Microbiologist trainee certificate and apply for such a certificate within three (3) months of appointment.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Incumbents must possess a valid California driver's license.

Independent travel may be required.

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Incumbents must be able to work in an environment that may include exposure to communicable disease.

CLASS HISTORY AND CLASS INFORMATION:

- Date Approved by the Civil Service Commission: May 12, 2004
- Date(s) Revised: September 14, 2011; November 10, 2021
- Class Code: 332040