

EPIDEMIOLOGIST PROGRAM MANAGER

KIND OF WORK

Managerial medical epidemiological work.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

An employee in this class plans, supervises, and coordinates a statewide program for the control of communicable and/or chronic diseases. Responsibilities include directing an interdisciplinary team of public health professionals, such as statisticians, physicians, health educators or research scientists, in designing and supervising investigations of endemic and epidemic diseases which includes devising methods of surveillance, control and program evaluation. The employee recommends policies and procedures for new and existing programs and advises physicians, other health professionals and the public on disease prevention and control. Diseases or health problems investigated frequently involve controversial public health problems and require the employee to develop new methods of analysis which are accepted by other nationally recognized epidemiologists. The employee will advise others in the Health Department, state government, and appropriate federal officials regarding disease problems and their control in Minnesota. Supervision is general in nature and reporting is achieved through written and verbal reports to the Director of the Division of Disease Prevention and Control.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

Plans and directs statewide investigations, identification and control of communicable or chronic diseases so that spread of disease in the state is minimized.

Assembles and directs interdisciplinary teams including statisticians, health educators, physicians, pathologists, environmental specialists and nurses in order to investigate specific chronic or communicable diseases in Minnesota and develop control programs.

Coordinates communicable and chronic disease epidemiologic activities among units in the Department of Health to ensure efficiency and program effectiveness.

Designs epidemiological methods so that chronic diseases and environmental hazards can be controlled.

Conducts epidemiologic research to increase knowledge necessary for control of the disease in the state.

Instructs and advises community public health agencies and the general public concerning disease control to enhance knowledge of disease prevention and control.

Assembles and staffs public advisory committees to ensure public awareness and participation in disease control programs.

Prepares accurate and timely information for the news media to keep the public informed of disease control and prevention activities.

Provides consultative services to physicians and other health professionals so that expertise is afforded with regard to etiology, pathogenesis, epidemiology and control of specified infections or chronic diseases.

Prepares and maintains budgets, supervises professional and clerical staff and performs related work as required so that the program operates efficiently.

Monitors disease patterns in the state and prioritizes disease areas requiring epidemiologic investigation in order that resources for disease control are utilized for the most severe and/or preventable diseases or risk factors.

Interprets and evaluates epidemiologic studies and medical literature on infectious and chronic diseases for application to studies of Minnesota's disease patterns so that new findings can be used to control disease problems in Minnesota.

Develops methods for determining chronic disease risk factor prevalence and attitudes toward behavior modification leading to risk reduction so that risk reduction program efforts are used effectively.

Develops methods to evaluate chronic disease risk factor reduction programs in order to determine effectiveness of various methodological approaches.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

Extensive knowledge of disease surveillance systems, including design and methods of analysis, with experience in processing epidemiologic data via automated (computer) system.

Extensive knowledge of and practical experience in the use of epidemiologic principles.

Extensive knowledge of the etiology, pathogenesis, epidemiology and control of infections and chronic diseases and ability to explain and discuss these with physician audiences.

Thorough knowledge of statistics and statistical methods of research.

Thorough knowledge of the Minnesota Department of Health functions, program policies and procedures.

Thorough knowledge of federal and state laws pertaining to state and local public health programs.

Considerable knowledge of individual and community health problems, particularly as they relate to state public health programs.

Ability to:

Ability to gain support and cooperation in the development and conduct of disease control programs.

Ability to organize seminars, in-service training and workshops in relevant technical areas of highly trained professionals such as physicians, as well as other health professionals.

Ability to evaluate the applicability of medical and epidemiologic studies to observed diseased patterns.

Ability to prepare reports, grants, contracts, news releases, and summaries of disease outbreak investigations for publications in major medical and public health journals.

Ability to prepare and maintain budgets.

Ability to supervise and evaluate the work of others.

Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing.

Est.: 11/26/80
Ckd.: 9/92

T.C.:
Former Title(s):