

## **PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGIST (HELP Program)**

### **General Statement of Duties and Responsibilities**

This class of positions encompasses professional work in the conduct and supervision of programs and surveillance for the detection, investigation, prevention and control of outbreaks of infectious, communicable, chronic, environmental or mental health diseases in medical and other institutions and in the community as a whole. There are two Assignment Levels within this class of positions. All personnel perform related work.

### **Assignment Level I**

Under general supervision, with latitude for independent judgment and initiative, conducts programs and surveillance in the areas described above.

### **Examples of Typical Tasks**

Reviews reports of outbreaks of communicable, chronic, environmental, or mental health diseases with superiors.

Supervises and participates in epidemiological investigations to determine sources of infection or vehicles of transmission.

Institutes immediate control and preventive measures, such as isolation of cases and immunization and quarantine of contacts, in outbreaks of diseases.

Coordinates outbreak control measures in different parts of the City with local health officials and hospital infection committees and epidemiologists.

Provides information regarding the incidence, control and prevention of infectious, communicable, chronic, environmental or mental health diseases to medical practitioners and the general public.

Assists hospitals in the investigation and control of nosocomial infections (infections originating in hospitals).

Participates in the education of persons in the prevention of specific diseases.

Participates in field practice programs for nursing and medical students.

**PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGIST (HELP Program)** (continued)

**Assignment Level I** (continued)

**Examples of Typical Tasks** (continued)

Makes recommendations in epidemiological matters to all other professional disciplines and to the community.

May conduct studies and investigations in connection with public health problems involving non-communicable diseases and conditions.

**Assignment Level II**

Under direction, with wide latitude for independent judgment and initiative, supervises and coordinates the work of Public Health Epidemiologists in the detection, investigation, prevention and control of outbreaks of infectious, communicable, chronic, environmental or mental health diseases on a borough-wide level. In addition, performs tasks such as the following:

Reviews investigation reports submitted by subordinates, and recommends appropriate actions or responses.

Supervises the institution of immediate control and preventive measures for isolation of cases and quarantine of contacts.

Provides technical assistance to hospitals and health professionals in the investigation and control of nosocomial infections (infections originating in hospitals).

Responds to requests for information from health professionals and the general public; supervises education about the prevention of specific diseases.

May supervise the conduct of studies and investigations in connection with public health problems involving non-communicable diseases and conditions.

**PUBLIC HEALTH EPIDEMIOLOGIST (HELP Program)** (continued)

**Qualification Requirements**

1. A master's degree in public health or epidemiology from an accredited college or university with a minimum of 12 graduate credits in epidemiology; or
2. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university plus two years of full-time paid experience as a health professional in a position which requires data collection and the reading and interpretation of medical charts and medical information in support of surveillance and epidemiologic investigations.

**Note:**

This title is classified in the non-competitive class for a 12 month period under the Hiring Emergency Limited Placement (HELP) Program. At the conclusion of 12 months incumbents will be transferred into Public Health Epidemiologist (51181) as permanent competitive class employees.