

New York State Department of Civil Service

DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION

Classification Standard

Occ. Code 5536500

Public Health Program Nurse, Grade 24

Brief Description Of Class

Positions in this class are professional nurses who work to promote and improve health outcomes and prevent diseases in individuals and groups throughout New York State. Incumbents of these positions integrate the principles of essential public health services and epidemiology with the nursing process to make decisions about communicable and chronic disease control; and, dependent on assignment, may develop and implement prevention and intervention strategies within the public health system; provide clinical and nursing consultation regarding communicable disease outbreaks, investigation, and response issues; interview and assess patients as part of disease control interventions; evaluate and help assure access, quality, and cost-effective services by assessing the needs of a population and developing and implementing interventions intended to optimize health outcomes; and work to improve the health of individuals and groups through health education and promotion and by providing oversight and evaluation of existing public health and preventive health programs.

These positions are located in the Department of Health (DOH).

Distinguishing Characteristics

Public Health Program Nurse: advanced performance level; independently monitors and assesses the health status, risk, resources, and vulnerability of various populations and subgroups; identifies the associated social and environmental factors, including patterns of health-illness relationships; assesses and sets priorities of health goals, prevention, and intervention options; and implements interventions or prevention activities. Incumbents may also supervise lower level staff.

Related Classes

Nursing Services Consultants conduct or participate in investigations or on-site surveys of health care settings to determine the level of compliance with federal and State rules and regulations; monitoring program grants; participating in the general assessment, planning, development and implementation of health care programs; serving as a nursing services expert; testifying as an expert witness in litigation proceedings; interpreting policies, rules and regulations; serving as a part of a survey team; and may be responsible for the facilitation of team operations.

Nurses 3 (various parenthetics) are advanced performance level registered nurses characterized by their responsibility for analyzing, developing, presenting, and evaluating educational training and quality improvement activities related to rendering appropriate and quality health care to patients.

Illustrative Duties

Provide in-service training, guidelines, consultation, professional and clinical direction for schools, local health department personnel, health care providers, and other stakeholders within the public health system that are participating in programs administered by DOH.

- Review public health programs and program implementation through site visits; provide feedback and technical guidance to program directors and staff regarding program effectiveness and impact.
- Respond to identified public health issues by presenting information to appropriate groups and facilitating communication with the community and other stakeholders.

Establish and coordinate resources for program standards, guidelines, or protocols for appropriate plans of care based on assessment of various population groups.

- Interpret and apply New York Public Health Law, New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations, and other State and federal guidelines.
- Facilitate program activities and identify the service or interventions to be evaluated.
- Develop and implement quality assurance, monitoring, best practices, and performance improvement measures, and implement systems to collect, record, and maintain accessible data regarding the health status of target populations.
- Determine the need for expansion and coordination of surveillance systems for the early detection, tracking, and evaluation of, and response to, various public health issues.
- Assist with developing Request for Applications/Request for Proposals for contracting program services.
- Oversee contract management activities, which may include conducting on-site reviews to ensure compliance with contractual requirements.

- Participate in the evaluation of the efficiency and impact of public health programs, including data collection, review of findings, analysis, and interpretation.
- Apply public health principles to design and establish health programs and activities based upon assessments of at-risk populations. Develop standards for program operation and conduct ongoing needs assessments that will assist in targeting specific program services.

Analyze, use, and apply health surveillance, demographic, environmental data, and health surveys and assessments to identify issues and possible approaches to target preventive health activities.

- Respond to episodic health-related situations impacting a community.
- Identify, assess, classify, and evaluate the dynamics of the health and social delivery systems to maximize effectiveness of interventions. Assess pattern of service delivery and content of services against needs.
- Review current literature for evidence-based or evidence-informed practice and strategies to address population health issues.
- Develop and direct plans, approaches, or measures to achieve goals derived from the community health assessment.
- Engage stakeholders in evaluating progress toward goal achievement.
- Establish mechanisms and partnerships needed for effective development and implementation of prevention measures and health promotion programs.
- Identify learning needs of at-risk populations, health professionals, providers, and others, and plan and implement teaching methods appropriate to those needs.

Conduct communicable disease surveillance activities and work as part of a team to investigate, control, and prevent the spread of infectious diseases in communities and health care settings including:

- Provide medically accurate guidance, information, technical assistance, and education to the public, local health departments, health care providers, hospitals, and other partners within the public health system on a variety of communicable disease prevention, control, and response issues.
- Maintain and update technical guidance documents, policies, manuals, and procedures in accordance with current laws, regulations, guidelines, standards, and best practices.

- Provide outreach to healthcare and community partners to improve child, adolescent, and adult immunization rates.
- Provide case management and medical countermeasures as needed in response to outbreaks and clinical communicable disease cases.

Facilitate individual, family, provider, and group participation in health promotion and improvement activities.

- Assess local health department strategies to address public health priorities, provide technical assistance to improve strategies based on population need and new or emerging evidence, and assess implementation.
- Represent DOH and its programs to local groups, schools, counties, other local entities, and statewide and national meetings by making presentations on public health program strategies.
- Develop, test, and distribute public health educational and informational materials through various media such as pamphlets, posters, campaigns, and websites.

Minimum Qualifications

Open Competitive: a bachelor's of science or higher degree in nursing; current New York State license and registration as a professional registered nurse; and four years of post-licensure nursing experience that includes at least one year of experience in public health and related health systems in one or more of the following areas: monitoring, diagnosing, investigating, disease prevention, surveillance and control activities, educating, researching, developing policies and initiatives, enforcing laws and regulations, assuring provision of health care, evaluating, and/or quality assurance activities in connection with the health status of individuals, populations in the community, and/or across populations.

Note: Classification Standards illustrate the nature, extent, and scope of duties and responsibilities of the classes they describe. Standards cannot and do not include all of the work that might be appropriately performed by a class. The minimum qualifications above are those which were required for appointment at the time the Classification Standard was written. Please contact the Division of Staffing Services for current information on minimum qualification requirements for appointment or examination.

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