

Jurisdictional Class: Competitive
Adopted: October 11, 1985
Revised: January 24, 2014

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH SANITARIAN

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This position involves responsibility for supervising and performing complex work (those involving controversial or sensitive issues or those requiring more in-depth knowledge) in the investigation and inspection of the non-engineering aspects of environmental health control and enforcing the provisions of Public Health Law, and local and State Sanitary Codes, and New York State Codes, Rules, and Regulations relating to environmental health, sanitation, and safety. An employee in this class may be responsible for planning, supervising, and managing aspects of one or more specific environmental health program areas. Senior Sanitarians apply the principles of natural and social sciences for the detection, evaluation, control, and management of those factors in the environment which influence the public's health. The work is performed independently with the minimal supervision of higher level Sanitarians or the Director of Environmental Health with leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the details of the work in accordance with established policies and procedures. Supervision is exercised over Public Health Sanitarians and subordinate personnel. The incumbent does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative only)

- Supervises and acts as a regulatory agent in environmental health programs and inspections of food service establishments (including temporary, mobile, and vending), children's camps, temporary residences such as hotels and motels, mobile home parks, migrant labor campgrounds, schools, swimming pools, bathing beaches, sewage treatment systems, and mass gatherings to enforce and determine compliance with Public Health Law, local and State Sanitary Code, and New York State Codes, Rules, and Regulations;
- Performs preliminary or quality control review of building plans, water supply plans, sewage disposal systems, fire safety, electrical, recirculation, and disinfection systems;
- Directs or conducts on-site inspections of facilities/sites to ensure health, safety, and welfare of the public/residents and to ensure compliance with applicable standards, criteria, and codes;
- Prepares or reviews correspondence and reports outlining findings, results, cited deficiencies, and required corrective action;
- Consults with, advises, and provides technical assistance and training for facility owners/operators/managers to ensure operation in accordance with applicable standards and to correct violations;
- Prepares legal/enforcement action as necessary to obtain compliance and testify as expert witness to present inspectional findings during hearings;
- Recommends issuance and prepares permits and other necessary paperwork for issuance of annual operating permits;
- Responds to telephone and written inquiries from owners/operators/managers and the general public regarding environmental programs and regulations;
- Assigns and ensures that animal bite reports are investigated;
- Collects and/or receives suspect rabies/West Nile Virus diseased specimens and prepares specimen for mailing to laboratories for analysis;
- Confers with local medical personnel, and authorizes, as necessary, rabies treatment for individuals bitten by suspected or confirmed rabid animals;
- Organizes annual rabies vaccination clinics for dogs and cats;

Senior Public Health Sanitarian

Conducts investigations of reports of lead poisoning, nuisance complaints, hazardous waste site contamination, rodent and vermin control, communicable diseases, individual water and sewage service requests, etc., collects samples and coordinates services with public health nursing, as necessary/appropriate;
Assists public and works with other local health officers in matters of environmental health;
Monitors reports of diseases and identifies patterns or groupings of cases and makes recommendations on the management of persons with communicable diseases in regulated facilities;
Works with local governmental units to secure improvements in local sanitation through the creation of sanitary inspector positions, selection and training of local personnel, and the adoption or revision of local sanitary codes;
Studies present and proposed local regulations to determine conformity with the State Sanitary Code and confers with local officials regarding resolutions which do not conform;
Addresses community groups on topics related to environmental health;
Trains facility operators and local health personnel on environmental issues;
Will be a member of the Public Health Response Team and will respond to public health emergencies;
Assists in preparation of news releases and other public relations materials regarding environmental health programs;
Prepares and maintains a variety of related records and reports.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES & PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of public health and environmental health principles, practices, and techniques, including sanitation laws, regulations, and modern inspection methods;
Thorough knowledge of applicable provisions of the Public Health Law, local and State Sanitary Code, and other applicable standards related to environmental public health;
Good knowledge of general principles of biology, microbiology, bacteriology, chemistry, and general science;
Good knowledge of the application of the chemical and biological sciences to environmental sanitation;
Ability to apply scientific principles to environmental health programs;
Ability to gather data from observations, interviews, records, and reports;
Ability to adequately assess the impact of various situations on environmental health and identify problem areas;
Ability to maintain and develop good public relations;
Ability to plan and supervise the work of others;
Ability to train subordinates;
Ability to understand and interpret oral and written material and present ideas clearly and effectively both orally and in writing;
Ability to prepare accurate reports;
Sound judgment.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Either:

(a) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a Bachelors Degree including thirty (30) semester credit hours in the *natural sciences, of which not more than twelve (12) credit hours may be in the **applied sciences, and two (2) years of experience as a Public Health Sanitarian deemed satisfactory by the local commissioner of health or public health director and have satisfactorily completed a public health training course approved by the New York State Health Department; or

Senior Public Health Sanitarian

(b) Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with an Associate's Degree with a minimum of fifteen (15) semester credit hours in *natural sciences, of which not more than six (6) credit hours may be in the **applied sciences, and four (4) years of experience as a Public Health Sanitarian deemed satisfactory by the local commissioner of health or public health director and have satisfactorily completed a public health training course approved by the New York State Health Department; or

(c) Satisfactory completion of sixty (60) semester credit hours of academic education at regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university with a minimum of fifteen (15) credit hours in *natural sciences, of which not more than six (6) credit hours may be in the **applied sciences, and six (6) years of experience as a Public Health Sanitarian deemed satisfactory by the local commissioner of health or public health director and have satisfactorily completed a public health training course approved by the New York State Health Department.

*Natural science shall mean a science such as biology, chemistry, or physics that deals with the objects, phenomena, or laws of nature and the physical world. It shall include all physical and biological sciences.

**Applied science shall mean science based courses in environmental technology, sanitation technology, medical technology, public health, infection control, or food science.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT: Assignments made to employees of this class require reasonable access to transportation to meet field work requirements in the ordinary course of business in a timely and efficient manner.

Qualifications are regulated by Part 11 of the State Sanitary Code (10 NYCRR).