



CLASSIFICATION NO. 508  
Established: 2/18  
FLSA: Non-Exempt  
EEO: 5

## **DISEASE INTERVENTION SPECIALIST**

### **CLASS CHARACTERISTICS**

Under direction, to identify, locate, notify, and refer for examination and/or treatment communicable disease infected or at-risk persons; to collaborate with medical providers, and navigate health care systems to ensure patient evaluation and treatment; and to do other work as required.

### **DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS**

The Public Health Division within the Department of Health, Housing and Human Services promotes and protects the health of County residents through population-based programs and services. These include population health surveillance, nutrition education and support through WIC, emergency planning and response, vital records, community engagement to identify and address health problems, communicable disease control, and food safety measures. Other services include These include immunizations, school based health clinics, and family planning services provided in conjunction with the County's Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC).

The Disease Intervention Specialist is responsible for identifying and obtaining treatment for carriers of communicable disease and their identified contacts with a focus on sexually transmitted infections (STI).

The Disease Intervention Specialist differs from Human Services Coordinator 1 which coordinates and assists in planning the activities of a human service program or project. It also differs from the Epidemiologist who performs research and analysis of disease data, surveillance, and quality assurance audits and requires a master's degree from an accredited school of Public Health.

### **TYPICAL TASKS**

Duties may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Conducts case investigations through interpretation of laboratory results for standard health tests; investigates reported, suspected, and potential cases of infections, including sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV; determines the origins and potential spread of communicable disease; ensures testing and treatment are completed by contacts; completes case reports.
2. Conducts interviews of clients diagnosed with or potentially exposed to sexually transmitted and other communicable diseases; provides confidential counseling, referral to testing and other services for clients and named contacts of potentially infected persons; analyzes electronic medical records to ensure adequate treatment has been completed per Center for

Disease Control and Oregon Health Authority recommended guidelines; conducts follow-up and referrals to ensure examination and treatment compliance for infected, exposed, and at-risk individuals; develops agreements with clients so unaware partners receive confidential and prompt diagnosis and treatment; and assists in locating exposed partners and coordinating their treatment.

3. Monitors changes to recommended treatments for a variety of STIs; works closely with physicians and other healthcare providers to inform them of proper testing, reporting, and treatment protocols for STIs, including HIV; researches local, state, national, and international disease trends and outbreaks.
4. Provides communicable disease clients with accurate information about their disease, health risks and promotes behavioral changes and techniques to prevent infections in the future.
5. Collaborates with community partners to increase the availability, accessibility, and utilization of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to high-risk individuals and refers clients to providers for PrEP education and consultation; collaborates with local and state partners to improve targeted communicable disease testing; acts as a consultant to other staff and partners on communicable diseases.
6. Analyzes case information, documentation, and case completion in required databases; conducts data entry and updates to databases for the purpose of tracking diseases, including STIs and HIV; ensures accurate management of detail in data entry and case reporting within multiple medical records.
7. Assists management with development of policies and procedures on individual patient management, diagnosis, and treatment guidelines, lab procedures, and counseling techniques.
8. Conducts field visits in the community for the purpose of case and outbreak investigations and community outreach; engages in community education and health promotion; may collect blood specimens in the field for diagnostic testing.
9. Participates as a member of the Public Health Infectious Disease Control and Prevention team; attends and participates in team huddles, meetings, quality improvement meetings, and projects.
10. Participates in county, local, and state committees and meetings related to public health.

### **REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**

Working knowledge of: Principles, policies, procedures, methods, and techniques specific to infectious disease control, prevention, and public health; principles and practices of field investigation; interviewing and motivational counseling techniques and principles; confidentiality guidelines; communicable disease etiology, manifestations, progression, diagnosis, and treatment; medical and drug terminology; laboratory testing procedures; lab report analysis for infectious diseases; epidemiology, contact investigation, tracing, and notification of communicable diseases; all types of sexually transmitted diseases, particularly reportable sexually transmitted diseases: their health effects, methods of transmission, prevention, treatment, and effect on families and social institutions; availability of community resources and

methods to ensure that patients are linked to care; record keeping procedures and basic statistical methods; personal safety techniques.

**Skill to:** Establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff, clients, and the public; communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; work independently; relate to a wide variety of people of varying ages, socioeconomic backgrounds and needs; apply concepts of cultural sensitivity; maintain records; operate computer software and other office equipment; follow written and verbal instructions; prepare and present written materials and oral presentations for the public.

### **WORKING CONDITIONS**

Some positions may involve exposure to bodily fluids and routine contact with individuals who have communicable diseases. Some positions may involve frequent exposure to hostile and/or disturbed clients. Duties in the field require occasional visits to community facilities and client living locations.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

Minimum qualifications are used as a guide for establishing the minimum experience, education, licensure, and/or certifications required for employment in the classification. The following minimum qualifications are established for this classification. Additional minimum qualifications and special conditions may apply to a specific position within this classification and will be stated on the job announcement.

**Experience:** A minimum of three (3) years of related experience that would provide the required knowledge and skills to perform the responsibilities of this position.

#### **Licenses/Certifications:**

The following licensure/certifications are required at the time of hire.

- Some positions may require completion of a phlebotomy training program or equivalent experience.

### **PRE-EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Must successfully pass a criminal history check which may include national or state fingerprint records check.

Requires a pre-employment drug test.

Driving is required for County business on a regular basis or to accomplish work. Incumbents must possess a valid driver's license, and possess and maintain an acceptable driving record throughout the course of employment.