

DEPARTMENT: HEALTH DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFICATION: COMPETITIVE
APPROVED: MARCH 23, 2023

PUBLIC HEALTH SANITARIAN

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The term Public Health Sanitarian shall mean a person who applies the principles of the physical, biological, and social sciences for the detection, evaluation, control and management of those factors in the environment which influence man's health. The incumbent works under the supervision of a higher-level sanitarian and performs professional public health activities which include specialized inspections, detailed investigations, and field interventions. A sanitarian investigates public health and environmental hazards, inspects regulated facilities, conducts health risk assessments, evaluates public health nuisances, and enforces the State and County sanitary code. Major program areas include community sanitation and food protection, environmental radiation, environmental/occupational health, and environmental conservation activities. Additional duties include the first line supervision of subordinate personnel, the provision of training, field testing and sampling, the interpretation of laboratory reports, the preparation of reports and recommendations, and the provision of evidence at enforcement proceedings. The incumbent may supervise the work of Public Health Technicians. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

1. Inspects permitted establishments, food service, private water supplies, swimming pools, private sewage disposal systems, waste disposal sites, waste transporters, wastewater treatment facilities, children's camps, migrant labor camps, mobile home parks, hotels and motels;
2. Investigates food poisoning incidents, public health nuisances, rabies incidents, smoking in public places and adolescent smoking, lead poisoning, housing conditions, public health and environmental hazards, air and water pollution releases, spills;
3. Conducts soil percolation tests, swimming pool field tests, private and public water supply field tests, lead program field tests, and other tests as required;
4. Collects water, ambient and indoor air, lead, food, soil, and other samples for laboratory examination;
5. Prepares reports on inspections, investigations, and field interventions;
6. May supervise Public Health Technicians;
7. Performs enforcement activities associated with public health and environmental conservation programs;
8. Regularly drives to and from inspection sites in personal or county-owned vehicle.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good working knowledge of public health and environmental health and conservation practices; ability to supervise the work of others; ability to prepare written reports; ability to communicate verbally; ability to train others in environmental health work; ability to relate to the public and the regulated community; good working professional judgment; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

SUGGESTED PROMOTIONAL QUALIFICATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXAMINATIONS:

One (1) year of permanent competitive status as a Public Health Technician with the Niagara County Health Department immediately preceding the date of written examination **AND must meet one of the following open competitive qualifications at the time of appointment.**

OPEN-COMPETITIVE:

1. Graduation with a Bachelor's Degree including a minimum of thirty (30) credit hours in natural science, of which not more than twelve (12) credit hours may be in the applied sciences, and have satisfactorily completed a public health training course approved by the State Health Department within two (2) years of appointment; **OR**
2. Five (5) years of full-time paid experience as a public health technician deemed satisfactory by the Public Health Director and satisfactory completion of a public health training course approved by the State Health Department.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:

1. Degrees and/or credit hours must have been awarded by a college or university accredited by a regional, national, or specialized agency recognized as an accrediting agency by the U.S. Department of Education/U.S. Secretary of Education.
2. Individuals meeting the above requirements may apply for a certificate as Public Health Sanitarian issued by the Niagara County Public Health Director. Possession of the certificate is required at the time of appointment.
3. Candidates qualifying under (1) above must satisfactorily complete a public health training course approved by the State Health Department within two (2) years of appointment.
4. Possession of a New York State driver's license at time of appointment and throughout duration of employment.

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NOTES:

1. The minimum qualifications are mandated by the Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York Title 10. Department of Health, Chapter 1. State Sanitary Code, Part 11. Qualifications of Public Health Personnel, Public Health Sanitarian.
2. The term 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.
3. The term applied science shall mean science based courses in environmental technology, sanitation technology, medical technology, public health, infection control or food science.

EXAMPLES OF SATISFACTORY COURSES

Natural Sciences (Physical and Biological)

Biology

General Biology
Microbiology
Genetics
Entomology
Parasitology
Marine Biology
Nutrition

Botany

General Botany
Physiology
Morphology
Taxonomy

Chemistry

General Inorganic Chemistry
Qualitative Analysis
Organic Chemistry
Biochemistry
Quantitative Analysis
Physical Chemistry

Earth Science

Geology
Hydrology
Metrology
Astronomy
Marine Geology

Physics

General Physics
Intermediate Physics
Pathology

Zoology

General Zoology
Cooperative Anatomy
Physiology
Taxonomy
Invertebrate Zoology