

ENVIRONMENTAL BACTERIOLOGIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under the general supervision of a higher level professional, the incumbent of this position supervises and conducts environmental bacteriological examinations insuring that all tests adhere to established quality control standards and that results of examination adhere to established proficiency standards. Supervision is exercised over subordinate professional and technical laboratory personnel. The incumbent must maintain a satisfactory rating of performance for those procedures for which approval has been granted to the laboratory by the New York State Department of Health.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Assists the Senior Environmental Bacteriologist in supervising all procedures used in the examination of drinking water, wastewater, food, swimming waters, dairy products and restaurant swabs;

Performs and interprets environmental bacteriology analyses of natural and treated waters, wastewater, estuarine waters, swimming pools and bathing places, dairy products, baby formula, restaurant swabs and food for sanitary quality utilizing prescribed standard methods;

Performs microscopic and macroscopic examinations of natural and treated waters;

Examines food samples and suspected food outbreak specimens for sanitary quality and fecal contamination;

Supervises and instructs trainees and subordinate staff in the performance and interpretation of environmental bacteriology examinations;

Assists in researching, analyzing and evaluating the applicability of new procedures, techniques, equipment and instrumentation;

Compiles, evaluates and interprets the results of examinations insuring the adherence to quality control standards;

Supervises and assists with sorting, numbering and preparing specimens for required tests;

Maintains quality control of all media by using known organisms;

Assists in gathering statistical data for monthly and other reports;

Prepares reports of examination of findings for various state and local governmental authorities as well as private concerns;

Maintains assigned areas, instrumentation and equipment in a clean and safe manner and at operational readiness;

Maintains adequate inventories of laboratory equipment and supplies;

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only) (Cont'd.)

Testifies in court or before other administrative hearings regarding results of examinations;

Participates in the New York State Department of Health proficiency testing programs in the assigned areas of discipline.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of appropriate laboratory procedures, techniques, and safety precautions; good knowledge of the principles and practices of environmental bacteriology; good knowledge of environmental bacteriology laboratory terminology; good knowledge of the microscope; familiarity with current developments in environmental laboratory science; ability to perform prolonged microscopic examinations; ability to plan, organize and supervise the work of assigned laboratory personnel in the performance of laboratory tasks and analyses; ability to research new methods and procedures and to prepare reports of findings; ability to compile and present data in a clear and concise manner; ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to follow detailed oral and written instructions; accuracy; thoroughness; dependability; initiative; judgment; integrity; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: A Bachelor's Degree* in a Biological Science and either: (a) three years of professional environmental bacteriology laboratory experience in a recognized laboratory, which must have included one year of supervisory experience; or (b) a Master's Degree* in a Biological Science and two years of experience as stated in (a), including the one year of supervisory experience.

*SPECIAL NOTE: Education beyond the secondary level must be from an institution recognized or accredited by the Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department as a post-secondary, degree-granting institution.