

VIROLOGIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under the general supervision of a Senior Virologist, an incumbent of this class performs laboratory procedures for the culture isolation and serologic diagnosis of specimens submitted for diagnostic evaluation for viruses, chlamydia and other microorganisms by local physicians and other laboratories. An incumbent performs diagnostic immunologic procedures for viruses, mycoplasma, rickettsiae, bacteria, fungi, parasites and other immunologic disorders. An incumbent also supervises work and provides training to subordinate personnel in the Virology Laboratory. An incumbent must maintain proper records of all quality control and diagnostic procedures of the Virology Laboratory and must be available for emergency weekend and holiday work situations. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Supervises the activities of subordinate personnel in the Virology Laboratory;

Performs tissue culture procedures for isolation and detection of viruses and chlamydia;

Performs serologic tests such as ELISA, Latex Agglutination, Immunofluorescence, complement fixation, hemagglutination inhibition, etc. on specimens submitted to the laboratory;

Performs quality control tests on diagnostic test reagents and equipment;

Maintains laboratory test records and helps prepare reports;

Helps in the evaluation of new diagnostic procedures for the Virology Laboratory;

Adheres to good microbiology laboratory practices in the maintenance of general cleanliness in the laboratory;

Participates in the New York State Department of Health proficiency testing programs in the assigned area of discipline;

Uses computer applications or other automated systems such as spreadsheets, word processing, calendar, e-mail and database software in performing work assignments;

May perform other incidental tasks, as needed.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of tissue culture techniques, immunofluorescence and other serologic procedures for the diagnosis of viruses, chlamydia and other microorganisms; thorough knowledge of diagnostic immunology procedures for serologic responses of various microorganisms and other immunologic disorders; proficient in the principles and procedures of different immunofluorescence techniques and fluorescent microscopes; good knowledge of biology and chemistry of microorganisms; ability to comprehend and interpret test results for diagnostic procedures; ability to follow detailed verbal and written instructions; ability to effectively use computer applications such as spreadsheets, word processing, e-mail and database software; ability to read, write, speak, understand and communicate in English sufficiently to perform the essential tasks of the position; accuracy; thoroughness; dependability; initiative; good judgment; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: High school or equivalency diploma and, at time of permanent appointment, must possess license and current registration issued by the New York State Department of Education as a Clinical Laboratory Technologist, or at time of temporary appointment, must possess a limited permit issued by the New York State Department of Education as a Clinical Laboratory Technologist, and graduation from a recognized college or university with a Bachelor's Degree* in a Biological Science and three years experience in a clinical microbiology laboratory, two of which must have been in the specialty of virology.

SUBSTITUTION: A Master's Degree in a biological science may be substituted for the one year of general experience in a clinical microbiology laboratory.

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

NOTE: Unless otherwise noted, only experience gained after attaining the minimum education level indicated in the minimum qualifications will be considered in evaluating experience.