

## **DISEASE INTERVENTION SPECIALIST**

### **JOB PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

The Disease Intervention Specialist (DIS) is responsible for conducting all aspects of STI investigations under the direction of the STI HIV Prevention Program Manager (PM). Work includes disease counseling and individualized education, referrals for additional care such as testing and treatment, partner elicitation and notification, and related administrative services to support the program as well as assisting with other department staff in conducting case investigations. The DIS is a non-licensed public health professional with applied expertise in client-centered interviews, collection of enhanced surveillance and community assessment data, partner services to include contract tracing; field investigation and other field-based activities including specimen collection, directly observed therapy, community outreach, collaboration with medical providers, and navigation of health care systems to ensure patient evaluation and treatment. Relevant program areas can include HIV, STD/STI, TB, and other communicable diseases, outbreak investigation and emergency preparedness and response.

### **CLASSIFICATION DISTINCTIONS**

The Disease Intervention Specialist is a stand-alone job classification. Incumbents employ judgment, discretion and independence in the accomplishment of work. Work is performed under general supervision and is reviewed by the Program Manager through periodic conferences and reports and through the adequacy and accuracy of the resultant records, reports, and functions. The DIS role differs from the Community Health Worker in that DIS professionals have ground-level investigative skills and expertise in essential skills such as communication, interviewing, counseling, case analysis, and provider and community engagement.

### **KEY OR TYPICAL TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

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.

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 STI Treatment Guidelines and Washington State Notifiable condition guidelines; conducts follow-up and referrals to ensure examination and treatment compliance for infected, exposed, and at-risk individuals; performs partner elicitation, notification and facilitates access to necessary treatment.

## Clark County, Washington

Maintains knowledge of current STI treatment guidelines; 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.

Provides communicable disease clients with accurate information about their disease, stages of disease, and health risks; promotes behavioral changes and techniques to prevent infections in the future.

Collaborates with local and state partners to improve targeted communicable disease testing.

Obtains case information, documentation, and case completion in required databases (PHIMS or other); 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.

Assists management with development of policies and procedures on individual client management, diagnosis, and treatment guidelines, lab procedures, and counseling techniques.

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 and transfer blood specimens in the field for diagnostic testing. Field visits may include private residences, work and school locations, and various community locations.

Documents intervention activities and maintains confidentiality of sensitive client and protected health information.

May take legal action as necessary in support or defense of children in utero whose mother is refusing treatment. May report to Child Protective Services as necessary to meet mandatory reporting requirements.

May participate in conducting medication inventory and provision of partner packs and may transport medications to community providers for treatment of STI's.

Participates in program specific or department program evaluation activities.

May be called upon to respond in a public health emergency or response.

Performs related duties as assigned.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Education and Experience:**

High school diploma or GED equivalent and two (2) years of experience, training, or applicable community experience in counseling or health outreach.

Must have or be able to obtain Washington State Medical Assistant - Phlebotomist certification within first year of hire.

Some positions may require oral and written fluency in both English and the language of the community being served.

Any satisfactory combination of education, experience and training which ensures the ability to perform the work will be considered.

**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: Harm reduction principles; 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.

**Ability 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.

### **Other Requirements:**

- Successful completion of Disease Intervention Specialist national certification within 12 months of hire (if applicable).
- Must adhere to OSHA/WISHA guidelines, including but not limited to timely completion of mandatory trainings.
- Some positions may require verbal and/or written proficiency in a second language.
- Must successfully pass a criminal history background check which may include state or national fingerprint records check, pursuant to RCW 43.43.830.
- 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 current auto insurance and an acceptable driving record throughout the course of employment.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT & PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

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. Work is generally performed indoors in client homes, offices or other community settings. Incumbents must have sufficient mobility to access the various work and field locations during the day and after dark. Tasks may require the incumbent to spend moderate periods of time standing and walking; some settings may require the ability to climb stairs. Occasional lifting and carrying up to 20 pounds is required. Travel throughout the local area is a requirement of the classification.