

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE II

JOB PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

The Public Health Nurse II works in a population-based practice setting. The position emphasizes health promotion and prevention of health problems. Activities may be focused on the individual, the community, or the systems level, depending on how the issue may best be addressed. Public Health Nurses often work with people of diverse cultures, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

KEY OR TYPICAL TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conduct communicable disease investigation and control activities.
- Conduct outbreak assessment and response.
- Provide Family Planning, STD and other clinic services.
- Provide Refugee screening services.
- Manage Maternal Child Health cases.
- Implement and conduct TB case management.
- Provide TB screening, history and medication refills including Directly Observed Therapy (DOT).
- Assure distribution of vaccines in the community.
- Provide immunizations and other clinical services.
- Provide HIV testing and counseling.
- Plan, implement and evaluate community education programs.
- Assure availability of safe effective vaccine in the community.
- Provide vaccine information to community organizations including private medical offices.
- Implement quality assurance programs for health services in the community.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education and Experience: Requirements include graduation from an accredited four year college or university with a bachelor's degree in nursing, and two years of increasingly responsible public health nursing experience. Experience should document knowledge, skills, and abilities required by the position.

Knowledge of

- Principles and application of epidemiology
- Core function and essential services of public health
- Learning theory
- Risk, causation, and behavior change models
- Washington State Nurse Practice Act
- Current prevention theory and practice
- Interviewing and counseling techniques
- Principles of disease transmission
- Local services and referral process

Ability to

- Work with multicultural, multi-language and disenfranchised populations
- Communicate effectively through interpreters
- Coordinate services with multiple providers and service organizations
- Accept feedback and make behavioral change
- Accurately document in the record interventions and outcomes
- Develop a plan of care, organize delivery of services, and complete a public health intervention for individuals and families
- Organize and prioritize multiple program functions
- Use independent judgment
- Work courteously and tactfully with difficult, angry or upset clients and work collaboratively and cooperatively with co-workers and the public
- Seek consultation or collaboration when appropriate
- Engage coping strategies to manage client load effectively
- Practice within the scope of nursing licensure
- Obtain a valid Washington license as a registered professional nurse
- Obtain a valid driver's license
- Provide documentation of immune status to vaccine preventable diseases, and/or participate in the employee immunity program.

WORK ENVIRONMENT AND PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Mechanical Hazards:

- Carry 30 pounds of paper, equipment, vaccines, etc.
- Drive a car, fly as a passenger in a plane, or other misc. travel as required
- Potential threats from the public (i.e. bioterrorism)
- Bend, lift, walk, and use lab equipment in the performance of duties
- May be exposed to clients or public individuals or groups with potential for violent behavior

Toxic Hazards:

- Potential exposure to vaccines, sprays, hazardous materials, contaminants (as determined by MSDS sheets), and bioterrorist-related materials. Potential exposure to drug-house contaminants.
- Exposure to chemically treated paper, printing products, inks
- Potential exposure to cleaning fluids and antiviral sprays

Blood and Body Fluids – Airborne Exposure:

- Exposure to blood, needles, reagent, biologics, and chemicals
- Possible airborne exposure to TB, measles, and other communicable diseases
- May be called upon to be on site at a public health event, outbreak, emergency, or intervention
- Regular potential for exposure to clients with infectious disease and sexually transmitted disease, including HIV

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