

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 3167

TITLE: PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY TECHNOLOGIST

GRADE: S-19

DEFINITION:

Under limited supervision, performs a wide variety of complex laboratory tests in one or more specialty areas: microbiology, immunology, hematology, serology, clinical chemistry, parasitology, urine drug screening, environmental microbiology and environmental chemistry in order to provide essential data for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of communicable disease and for the identification and prevention of environmental health hazards; evaluates, confirms and interprets test results for medical providers and environmental health specialists; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

The Public Health Laboratory Technologist is distinguished from the Public Health Laboratory Supervisor in that the Technologist performs complex laboratory work involving highly complex testing and consultation that requires advanced skills in a specialty area; whereas the Public Health Laboratory Supervisor performs highly complex tests in multiple specialized areas and provides technical supervision of professional laboratory staff.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUTIES:

Performs hematology, serology, clinical chemistry, and immunology testing on blood specimens that are more likely to be infectious than those tested in routine medical settings;

Processes, cultures, and identifies specimens for the presence of tuberculosis bacilli;

Performs antimicrobial susceptibility testing and DNA identifications of tuberculosis bacilli;

Cultures, identifies, and performs sensitivity testing on bacteria associated with food borne outbreaks and similar public health events;

Prepares culture media, solutions, and slides used to identify bacterial organisms;

Examines slides for the presence of bacteria, parasites, and ova;

Identifies pathogenic organisms in body fluids and exuded matter;

Provides special handling and shipping requirements for specimens with critical needs such as bioterrorism agents, West Nile virus and tuberculosis testing confirmations;

Performs animal head necropsies and examines animal brain tissue for rabies;

Performs complex nucleic acid amplification tests;

Performs urine drug tests and consults with substance abuse counselors, mental health professionals, and probation officers regarding results;

May testify in court proceedings as an expert witness;

Performs tests of milk and dairy products for bacterial counts, phosphatase, and antibiotics;

Performs water tests on public and private drinking water supplies to determine bacterial counts;

Analyzes air filter, groundwater and drinking water for inorganic elements and metals;

Ensures that laboratory equipment is properly utilized and maintained in good working order and complies with OSHA safety guidelines;

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Operates, troubleshoots, and maintains a wide variety of laboratory equipment such as analytical balance, fluorescent and phase microscopes, automated chemistry and hematology analyzers, atomic absorption spectrophotometer, microplate reader, luminometer, and urine dipstick reader;

Performs statistical calculations on analytical results;

Monitors reagent and supply inventory in assigned specialty area.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:

Considerable knowledge of biology, chemistry, and medical laboratory procedures;

Knowledge of quality control, documentation, quality assurance, and professional standards of laboratory practice in a certified laboratory;

Knowledge of laboratory hazards and procedures;

Ability to perform technical laboratory procedures in a precise and accurate manner;

Ability to apply problem-solving standard procedures to clearly defined problems;

Ability to work with medical professionals to solve problems;

Ability to solve daily routine and complex procedures;

Ability to pay close attention to detail;

Ability to work independently and make analytical judgments;

Ability to provide technical interpretation and recommendations for follow-up testing;

Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing;

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships;

Ability to operate, maintain and properly read various laboratory instruments;

Ability to interpret and follow complex technical instructions

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Any combination of education, experience, and training equivalent to: Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a Bachelor's degree in biology, chemistry, medical technology or a related field of study; PLUS two years laboratory experience; OR possession of a valid certificate in medical technology issued by a nationally recognized society PLUS two years laboratory experience.

CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES REQUIRED:

Contingent upon area of assignment, certification as a registered Medical Technologist issued by a nationally recognized society may be required and/or possession of a valid Motor Vehicle Driver's License.

REVISED:	October 29, 2007
REVISED:	February 13, 1989
REVISED:	March 8, 1983