CITY OF HOUSTON

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Code: 771.3

Job Title: **MICROBIOLOGIST III**

Pay Grade: 21

GENERAL SUMMARY:

Performs highly technical bacteriological, serological and/or virological laboratory work according to clearly prescribed procedures and laboratory techniques or developmental methods.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Performs varied laboratory tests for the detection, isolation and identification of viruses and bacteria which cause human or animal diseases.
- Isolates microorganisms from specimens and identifies those pathogens using biochemical and serological techniques.
- Assists in and performs various tests related to the detection of viral or fungal infections.
- Maintains stock cultures for the preparation of solutions used in viral and bacteriological testing.
- Records and reports test results.
- Performs other technical assignments as required.
- May assist supervisor with administrative tasks.
- Maintains direct responsibility for microbiological research projects and writes technical reports.
- May be required to serve as an expert witness in legal or regulatory proceedings.

SPECIFICATIONS:

KNOWLEDGE:
A Bachelor's degree in Biology, Bacteriology, Microbiology or a closely related field is required.

When assigned to Health Department:
A Bachelor's degree in Microbiology, Biology, Chemistry, Clinical Laboratory Science, or a Physical Science from an accredited institution is required.

EXPERIENCE:
Two years of experience in laboratory work dealing with bacteriology, serology or virology are required.

COMPLEXITY:
Work is substantially complex and varied, and requires the interpretation of technical and detailed guidelines, policies and procedures in combination. Analytic ability is needed to gather and interpret data where answers can be found only after careful analysis of several facts.

SPECIFICATIONS: (continued)

IMPACT OF ACTIONS:
Errors could lead to moderate expenses and inconveniences. Work is typically performed under moderate to limited supervision with standard operating procedures. The incumbent functions under general review and at times autonomously, with the supervisor available to answer more difficult questions.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED:

Direct Supervision:
No direct report employees.

Indirect Supervision:
No indirect reports.

CONTACTS:

Internal Contacts:
Level of internal contact is primarily with the clerical and technical staffs and occasionally with professionals and supervisors. Interaction involves routine information exchange and/or simple service activity requiring common courtesy; e.g., answering questions, giving directions in response to simple requests.

External Contacts:
Level of external contact is infrequent with occasional contacts with lower-level service representatives and/or vendors. Interaction involves routine information exchange and/or simple service activity which requires common courtesy; e.g., directing calls, and answering simple questions.

PHYSICAL EFFORT:
The position occasionally requires stooping or bending. Occasional very light lifting, such as three or four reams of papers or books (up to 20 pounds or an equivalent weight) may be required.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:
There are frequent exposures to extreme levels of temperature, air pollution, noise pollution, chemical gases and substances, and/or contagious diseases or physical trauma conditions of a short-term disabling nature, such as broken bones or temporary loss of sight or hearing.

PHYSICAL SKILL:
Requires the ability to make closely coordinated eye/hand movements within very fine tolerance and/or calibration demands; or the ability to make rapid closely coordinated eye/hand movements on a patterned response space within somewhat fine tolerance demands; or the ability to make coordinated eye/hand movements within fine tolerances with large equipment as an extension of the worker.

MISCELLANEOUS:
All duties and responsibilities may not be listed in the above job description.

JOB FAMILY:
Microbiologist I
Microbiologist II
Microbiologist III
Microbiologist IV
Laboratory Supervisor
Laboratory Manager

Effective: October 1990
Revised: March 2017
Revised: August 2023