



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Health has a career opportunity for qualified candidates for the following position:

Title Research Scientist 1 [Classified Non-Competitive]			Salary R30 \$87,578.62 - \$124,980.46
Posting Number 83-23	Position Number 962030	Number of Positions 1	Posting Period * From: 01/24/2023 To: 02/07/2023
Location: Division of Epidemiology, Environmental and Occupational Health Communicable Disease Service 135 E. State Street, 2nd Floor Trenton, NJ 08625			Scope of Eligibility/Open to: Department of Health Employees

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Communicable Disease Service (CDS) is seeking a Research Scientist 1/Epidemiologist & Wastewater Surveillance Coordinator to design and implement surveillance, research, and public health response activities associated with COVID-19 and other infectious disease pathogens; and provide back-up expertise for other respiratory virus surveillance, investigations, and outbreak response. This position will serve as the coordinator for the New Jersey Department of Health's National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) program and will work closely with the Public Health and Environmental Laboratories, CDC, and local health departments to provide and analyze data on COVID-19, monkeypox, and other pathogens as an early detection surveillance approach. The Research Scientist 1 will identify and research metrics and develop tools to track the incidence and prevalence of pathogens in wastewater and to correlate data with other human surveillance indicators; and utilize wastewater surveillance data in conjunction with other surveillance tools to inform clinical testing and community mitigation strategies. This position will research and evaluate the effectiveness and use of wastewater surveillance data for community surveillance as well as for targeted populations, including nursing homes and institutes of higher education. Other job responsibilities include: providing consultation and technical assistance to CDS epidemiologists, local health departments, clinicians, and healthcare facilities on COVID-19 and other emerging pathogens and wastewater surveillance; serving as a liaison with state, federal, academic, and other partners; representing the Department of Health at conferences with outside stakeholders (e.g., CDC, other state agencies, and health departments outside New Jersey); preparing grant applications, budget requests, and grant-required reports and producing sound, accurate scientific articles and reports on investigations for publication in scientific journals and presentation at scientific meetings. Other responsibilities include overseeing the development of educational materials and informational webinars and using surveillance data to guide the development of public health recommendations (e.g., increased testing, outreach, and communication) to affected communities. This position will review and analyze scientific literature pertaining to current research developments and incorporate advances into research and investigations and serve as a liaison to local, state, and federal agencies, academic partners, and professional associations. This position will supervise and mentor lower levels of Research Scientists and other technical staff; and provide on-call services on evenings and weekends as required.

The ideal candidate will have: academic credentials in epidemiology and/or environmental health, demonstrated knowledge and/or experience in infectious disease surveillance and epidemiology, strong data manipulation and analysis skills working with large databases, and the ability to manipulate data for analysis and visualization using SAS and Tableau. Knowledge of wastewater surveillance practices and lab-based approaches for detection of pathogens in wastewater is a plus as is experience using ArcGIS. Candidate must have demonstrated ability leading and supervising a team and communicating effectively orally and in writing with diverse audiences.

REQUIREMENTS (EDUCATION / EXPERIENCE / LICENSES)

EDUCATION: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Master's degree in a discipline appropriate to the position.

EXPERIENCE: Four (4) years of full-time experience in a field appropriate to the position.

NOTE: A Doctorate in a discipline appropriate to the position may be substituted for two (2) years of experience indicated above.

LICENSE: Appointees will be required to possess a valid driver's license valid in New Jersey only if the operation of a vehicle, rather than employee mobility, is necessary to perform the essential duties of the position.

IMPORTANT FILING INSTRUCTIONS

If interested in this position, you can reply in one of two ways:

- Forward the required documents electronically to:
PSTEEOH@doh.nj.gov
- Mail the required documents to:
David Sellinger, Regulatory Officer 1
Epid., Environmental and Occupational Health
Reference Posting #83-23
New Jersey Department of Health
PO Box 369
Trenton, NJ 08625-0369

Required documents:

- cover letter
- resume
- completed application, found at:
<http://www.nj.gov/health/forms/dpf-663.pdf>

** Responses received after the closing date MAY be considered if the position is not filled.*

- *Newly hired employees must agree to a thorough background check that will include fingerprinting.*
- *If you are a candidate for a position in our Public Health and Environmental Laboratories, you may be subject to pre- and/or post-employment alcohol and drug testing.*
- *If you are a candidate for a position that involves direct client care in one of the State facilities/programs, you may be subject to pre- and/or post-employment drug testing/screening. The cost of any pre-employment testing will be at the candidate's expense. Candidates with a positive drug test result, or those who refuse to be tested and/or cooperate with the testing requirement, will not be hired.*
- *In compliance with federal law, all persons hired will be required to verify identity and eligibility to work in the United States and to complete the required employment eligibility verification form upon hire.*
- *In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-7, the "New Jersey First Act", all employees must reside in the State of New Jersey, unless exempted under the law. If you do not live in New Jersey, you have one year after you begin employment to relocate your residence to New Jersey.*
- **The New Jersey Department of Health is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**
- **RESUME NOTE:** *Applicants who possess foreign degrees (degrees earned outside of the U.S.) are required to provide an evaluation indicating the U.S. equivalency prior to the closing date. Failure to do so may result in your ineligibility.*