



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH NOTICE OF VACANCY

State of New Jersey

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

Title Research Scientist 2 [Classified Non-Competitive]			Salary P28 \$85,535.88 - \$121,891.47
Posting Number 591-24	Position Number 962047	Number of Positions 1	Posting Period * From: 09/03/2024 To: 09/17/2024
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: Applicants who Meet the Requirements

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Vector-borne Disease Unit is seeking a Research Scientist 2/Vector-borne Disease Epidemiologist/Entomologist to design and implement surveillance, research, and public health response activities associated with vector-borne disease pathogens and for tick vectors of public health concern. Responsible for analyzing vector-borne disease data (human, vector, animal), and producing weekly surveillance reports used by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), NJ Department of Agriculture (NJDA), Rutgers University, and other public health and vector control partners to target mosquito control and education activities. Oversees the state's tick surveillance program for ticks of public health concern in NJ to investigate and measure tick presence and abundance and estimate pathogen presence and prevalence. Participates in field activities and collaborate with Public Health and Environmental Laboratories (PHEL) staff on the development and use of expanded tickborne disease pathogen testing in ticks. Identifies and researches metrics and develops research tools to monitor tickborne disease in humans, measure tick abundance and pathogen prevalence in ticks, and applies data and findings from tick surveillance to the impact on human-tick encounters and tickborne diseases. The information gained will be used to monitor changes in tickborne diseases geographically and over time, and to develop strategies to improve prevention of tickborne illness. Designs new and innovative surveillance strategies and conducts surveillance, research, and public health response activities associated with vector-borne diseases and tick vectors of public health concern. Plans and implements descriptive and analytical epidemiologic studies and investigations related to vector-borne disease surveillance, develop data collection tools, and monitor epidemiologic and clinical data to identify changes in clinical presentation, illness severity and/or populations/groups at risk. Oversees JerseySurv, the state's vector-borne disease surveillance system, analyze vector-borne disease data and produce weekly surveillance reports. Oversee the state's tick surveillance program, including determining appropriate habitat for tick surveillance, coordinating and assisting in tick collections, providing training on tick surveillance, and ensuring accuracy of collection and testing data. Reviews and classify vector-borne disease reports and ensure accurate reporting to CDC. Provides consultation and technical assistance and plans and conducts training seminars for public health, healthcare, and vector control partners. Serves as liaison to local, state, and federal agencies, academic partners, and professional associations for vector-borne disease issues. Prepares detailed scientific articles and reports on investigations for publication in scientific journals and presentation at scientific meetings. Provides after-hours coverage to address inquiries from healthcare providers and local health departments as needed. Attends vector-borne disease epidemiology and entomology meetings for improved state and local coordination.

The ideal candidate will have academic credentials in epidemiology and/or entomology, and demonstrated knowledge and/or experience in infectious disease surveillance and epidemiology, tick surveillance, strong data manipulation and analysis skills working with large databases, and the ability to analyze and visualize data using SAS, ARC-GIS, R, or Tableau; biology and epidemiology of vector-borne diseases, lab-based approaches for diagnosis of vector borne diseases and/or pathogen detection; demonstrated ability to work as part of a team and communicate effectively orally and in writing to diverse audiences.

REQUIREMENTS (EDUCATION / EXPERIENCE / LICENSES)



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EDUCATION:

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

EXPERIENCE:

Three (3) 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 2
Epid., Environmental and Occupational Health
Reference Posting #
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.*



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IMPORTANT NOTES

**State as a Model Employer
of People with Disabilities
(SAME) Applicants:**

If you are applying under the NJ "SAME" program, your supporting documents (Schedule A or B letter), must be submitted along with your resume by the closing date indicated above. For more information on the SAME program, visit their website at:

<https://nj.gov/csc/same/overview/index.shtml>, email: SAME@csc.nj.gov , or call CSC at (833) 691-0404.

PHEL Candidates:

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.

Direct Client Care:

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.

**New Jersey
First Act:**

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.

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.

Authorization to Work:

Selected candidates must be authorized to work in the United States according to the Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Regulations. The State of New Jersey does **not** provide sponsorships for citizenships to the United States.

Note: Newly hired employees must agree to a thorough background check that will include fingerprinting.

The New Jersey Department of Health is an Equal Opportunity Employer.