



Winnebago County

Health Department

WINNEBAGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Job Title:	Environmental Health Inspector I- Public Facilities
Center:	EHI
Reports to:	Environmental Health Supervisor
FLSA Status:	Non-Exempt
Grade Level:	14
Date Created/last reviewed:	5/01/2023

OVERVIEW OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

As a national accredited health department, the Winnebago County Health Department's (WCHD) mission is to prevent disease, promote health, and engage the community to ensure the health of Winnebago County. Its vision is healthy people in a healthy community that promotes health equity. WCHD is proud to be a trauma-informed agency that recognizes the collective impact of their adverse experiences and works to foster resiliency and well-being.

POSITION SUMMARY

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

The Environmental Health Inspector promotes individual and population public health by providing the essential services of public health within a variety of settings. Responsibilities include: inspecting properties, businesses or homes; identifying health and environmental hazards; providing community health education and health promotion activities; ensuring compliance with a broad range of current local health and environmental codes, regulations and policies; participating in multi-faceted health or environmental projects; and providing technical assistance and information to individuals, families and groups regarding public health and environmental issues. This position requires knowledge of public health and environmental science. Services provided routinely during normal business hours & occur on weekends and evenings.

Specifically, the Environmental Health Inspector I – Facilities will:

- Perform inspections of new and existing food facilities to ensure compliance with local and State codes. Conduct follow-up/rechecks and/or enforcement activities where necessary.

- Conduct inspections in response to all complaints within 3-5 days of receipt as required by the Illinois Department of Public Health to meet food program requirements
- Educate operators and public consumers on food handling, temperature requirements and proper sanitation.
- Complete all required documentation in an accurate and timely manner
- Inspect special food events, i.e., carnivals, fairs, festivals, etc. to ensure safe preparation and service of food and proper sanitary conditions in temporary facilities
- Cross-train and provide additional support for other programs in the Environmental Health Improvement Center.

Public Health Sciences

- Conducts routine/required inspections and/or audits to ensure compliance of existing local public health and environmental codes, regulations and policies.
- Provides health education and technical assistance to individuals and/or groups regarding compliance with current local public health and environmental codes, regulations and policies.
- Investigates complaints regarding environmental health problems and environmental health hazards and initiates enforcement or corrective actions as required.
- Collaborates in the development and delivery of programs and activities that promote health and prevent disease, in settings including, but not limited to all Health Department buildings/sites, homes, community organizations and businesses, schools, and the community in general.
- Participates in response teams to prevent, minimize, and contain adverse health events and conditions resulting from communicable diseases; food-, water-, and vector-borne outbreaks; chronic diseases; environmental hazards; injuries; and health disparities.
- Responds to public complaints and inquiries on environmental or public health matters.

Community Dimensions of Practice

- Educates the public on environmental health issues and the public health rationale for environmental health regulations.
- Provides environmental health information, interpretation, technical assistance and regulatory compliance advice to individuals, groups industry organizations, the general public and other agencies regarding local public health environmental codes, regulations, policies, and identified environmental health problems.
- Participates in Winnebago County Health Department sanctioned research and demonstration projects that seek to improve the health of communities and determine new ways to address health issues.
- Provides orientation to staff, students and other health and human service professionals in the community regarding environmental public health practices.
- Winnebago County Health Department has adopted a pro-equity agenda to advance change and ensure that residents from vulnerable communities are incorporated.

Analysis and Assessment

- Collaborates in Winnebago County Health Department's community health assessment and health improvement planning and intervention activities. Collects samples, conducts field tests, collects and analyzes environmental public health data; interprets results and makes recommendations for corrective action(s).

Leadership and Systems Thinking

- Demonstrates knowledge of applicable professional guidelines for Licensed Environmental Health Practitioners and other Federal and State laws and regulations applicable to practice as an environmental public health professional in the state of Illinois.
- Adheres to applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards, such as those concerning exposure to blood borne pathogens, toxic substances, airborne pathogens or exposure to other hazards during routine assignments or assignments during public health emergencies.
- Contributes to a work environment where continuous quality improvements in service and professional practice are pursued.

Policy Development and Program Planning

- Coordinates environmental public health activities with professionals and investigators from other agencies and jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.
- Coordinates enforcement activities between other governmental agencies, such as the Winnebago County States Attorney's Office, which enforce laws and regulations to protect the public's health.
- Collaborates in the development of environmental-best management practices, regulations and cost-effective options in collaboration with businesses, trade associations, agencies, staff and the public.
- Collaborates in the development, implementation, and evaluation of long and short range policies, plans, and programs for environmental public health in Winnebago County.
- Collaborates in and contributes to individual, team, and Departmental quality improvement and evaluation activities.

Communication and Cultural Competency

- Delivers targeted, culturally-appropriate information to help individuals and groups understand local environmental public health policies, regulations, and code.
- Utilizes appropriate methods for interacting effectively and professionally with persons of all ages and from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, racial, and ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, lifestyles, and physical abilities.
- Adheres to ethical principles and Winnebago County Health Department policy in the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of data and information

Financial Planning and Management

- Assist in developing programmatic budgets and other resources for public health activities,
- contributes to the preparation of proposals for funding from external resources and participates in cost benefit, cost effectiveness, and cost utility analyses in setting priorities and making decisions.
- Monitors lab staff time and activity measures to assure alignment with fiscal requirements.

- Assures compliance with purchasing and fiscal procedures to implement services in alignment with Departmental budget.

Other

- Maintain, update and use computerized data management systems.
- Performs public health emergency response duties as assigned and consistent with training provided and job classification, in response to threats to the public's health.
- Participates in Department and community emergency response training and drills consistent with job classification in support of public health emergency and disaster preparedness.
- Assumes responsibility for own professional growth and development by pursuing education, participating in professional committees and work groups and contributing to a work environment where continual improvements in practice are pursued.
- Performs other duties as assigned consistent with job classification.
- Participates in trauma-informed trainings as assigned.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS:

- Treats others with courtesy, respect and a caring manner in all interactions.
- Work collaboratively in all situations with staff and clients to establish safety and hope, build trust, and provide a trauma-informed environment.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED:

Education, Licensure, Certifications, Experience

- Bachelors of Science Degree in Environmental Health or other related degree with a minimum of 30 semester hours of science.
- Illinois Licensure as an Environmental Health Practitioner. A candidate with eligibility in the state of Illinois for licensure as an environmental health practitioner within 2 years in that position may be accepted on a provisional basis.
- Must obtain Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner within 3 years of employment.
- Must participate in assigned trainings, including on-line training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) offered through the Federal Emergency Management Agency to obtain the following certifications:
 - Within 6 months of employment: ICS 100, ICS 200, ICS 700, and ICS 800
- Valid driver's license, current certificate of vehicle insurance, and access to reliable transportation to all assigned work locations.
- Utilizes trauma-informed care in order to be a support to Winnebago County Health Department staff and clients

Knowledge and Skills:

- Knowledge of the core functions and essential services of public health, public health principles, and disease process.
- Knowledge of environmental sciences and environmental public health principles.

- Basic understanding of environmental public health protection programs, laws, regulations, policies, and processes in Illinois and Winnebago County.
- Knowledge of data collection, analysis, and interpretation techniques.
- Knowledge of federal, Illinois State and local environmental regulations that is applicable to a practitioner in a local public health agency.
- Knowledge of code enforcement techniques and evidence gathering.
- Knowledge of safety procedures for handling hazardous materials.
- Knowledge of regulatory and technical monitoring and investigation methods.
- Knowledge of valid sample procedures and protocol.
- Demonstrates basic mathematical calculations.
- Demonstrates effective written and oral communications, including conveying technical information to non-technical community members.
- Demonstrates ability to interpret and apply public health protection regulations.
- Knowledge of conflict resolution techniques and its applications.
- Demonstrates ability to work independently and in teams.
- Demonstrates basic knowledge and use of computerized data management systems.
- Demonstrates knowledge of and usage of field equipment.
- Knowledge of best practices in trauma-informed organizations and trauma-informed care.

Other

- Must successfully complete a pre-employment/post offer drug screen.
- Must successfully complete a pre-employment/post offer background check, which may include; criminal and civil claims, credit report, finger printing, etc.
- Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license, current certificate of vehicle insurance, and access to reliable transportation is required.
- Proficiency in use of advanced computer skills: email, word processing, databases and spreadsheets, and internet searches.
- Ability to work longer shifts, nights, and weekends to meet operational needs as determined by management.
- Ability to meet the physical demands of the Essential Functions. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.
 - Engages in the following movements: Sitting, standing, walking, reaching and writing/typing frequently; climbing, balancing, stooping, kneeling, crouching, lifting, fingering, grasping, and feeling occasionally.
 - Must be able to lift and/or move up to 10 pounds frequently and 30 pounds occasionally.
 - Hearing ability sufficient enough to communicate with others effectively in person and over the phone
 - Visual ability must be sufficient enough to read documents, computer screen and drive a car.
 - Must be able to be fitted and wear NIOSH 95 mask, in conjunction with emergency preparedness.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED

Must be able to use multi-line telephone, mobile phone, fax machine, copy machine, calculator, computer, scanner and printer.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this job the employee works in a typical office environment. The employee is exposed to noise from close working conditions and significant work pace/pressures.

Employees are empowered to do their work to the best of their ability as well as receive organizational support to help prevent and address secondary trauma.

Commitment to equity and social justice and advancing practices, strategies, and policies that promote fairness, justice, and opportunity for all.