

DEPARTMENT: HEALTH DEPARTMENT
CLASSIFICATION: COMPETITIVE
APPROVED: OCTOBER 9, 2025

PRINCIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEER

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is a responsible administrative position with immediate charge of planning and directing all of the specialized bureaus within the Division of Environmental Health and may have responsibility for supervising the activities of one or more of the bureau's specialized programs. As Principal Public Health Engineer in a municipal public health department, the work is of a professional environmental health nature involving responsibilities of a high order in relation to planning, directing, and supervising the environmental health program. The work entails furnishing advice and guidance to local officials and the general public in regard to environmental health programs and the measures necessary for improvements and compliance with legal requirements; providing leadership in promotion of public health through the application of environmental health practices; enforcement of the provisions of the Public Health Law and local and State Sanitary Codes in relation to environmental health matters. The incumbent is responsible for all environmental health bureaus and may be assigned to supervise the activities of a specialized program within the bureau or may assist the Director of Environmental Health in directing and administering the Division of Environmental Health and will, in the absence of the Director of Environmental Health, assume the responsibilities of the Division. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

1. Guides and directs educational and regulatory activities pertaining to the program;
2. Assists in the preparation of the budget for and evaluates environmental health programs;
3. Supervises enforcement of provisions of local and State Public Health Laws and Sanitary Codes relating to air pollution, solid & hazardous wastes, environmental radiation, public water supplies, sewerage and wastes disposal, operation of water and sewage treatment plants, swimming pools and bathing beaches, camps, hotels, lodging and boarding houses, restaurants and public eating places, stream pollution, reality subdivisions, qualifications of water and sewage treatment plant operators, public health nuisances and related matters;
4. Consults and advises concerning the activities carried on in relation to promotion of improved housing and plumbing to meet public health standards;
5. Consults and advises regarding programs for insect and rodent control;
6. Makes environmental health investigations of outbreaks of disease;
7. Formulates and directs programs for training of water plant operations, environmental health personnel, food handlers, restaurant proprietors, camp owners, and other classes of operating personnel;
8. Represents the Health Department on matters and problems related to environmental health;
9. Maintains relationships and cooperates with local, state and federal agencies whose work or policies affect the public health program;
10. Prepares technical reports including recommendations;
11. Assists in the formulation of public health engineering and environmental policies;
12. In the absence of the Director of Environmental Health will assume the responsibilities of the division.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of the principles, techniques, practices and administration of public health engineering and environmental health programs as related to air pollution, solid & hazardous wastes, x-ray installation, environmental radiation, water supplies and purification, sewerage and sewage disposal, stream pollution, sanitary control of camps, hotels, lodging houses, boarding house, swimming pools, bathing beaches, schools and other places, insect and rodent control, housing, public health nuisances and community sanitation; thorough knowledge of provisions of Public Health Law and State Sanitary Code related to above subjects; ability to plan, develop, direct and administer public health engineering and environmental health programs and to project and integrate these into the departmental program; ability to prepare technical reports and correspondence; demonstrated skill in public health engineering techniques, and practices; initiative and resourcefulness in solving difficult public health engineering problems; ability to deal with public and other officials; ability to develop and maintain good public relations; professional judgment; physical conditions commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AT TIME OF APPOINTMENT AND FOR DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Possession of current and valid New York State professional engineering and drivers licenses.