

Communicable Disease Investigator – Supplemental Information

Become a part of an innovative, dynamic, organization of dedicated public health professionals working to promote healthful social, economic, and environmental conditions for all residents of Lewis County. We are looking for a Disease Investigator to join our disease control team. The mission of the disease control team is to protect and promote the health of Lewis County through the prevention and control of communicable diseases including food-borne diseases, vaccine-preventable diseases, tuberculosis, and sexually transmitted diseases.

The Disease Investigator position is responsible for reaching out to people diagnosed with a disease, determining the source of the infection as well as any potential contacts, and providing health education and guidance in order to interrupt ongoing disease transmission. The Disease Investigator will conduct interviews with patients to gather information including symptom history, source of illness, list of contacts, and activity history while infectious.

While case interviews are guided by standard protocols, the interaction with the patient necessitates flexibility, cultural competency, and application of motivational interviewing techniques. A successful case interview allows for the collection of critical, and often sensitive, information about the case and potentially exposed contacts, while providing support, referrals, and answers to questions the patient may have. Developing a warm, empathetic rapport with the case is critical to providing the most effective support and collecting the most accurate information to inform the next steps in the contact tracing investigation. This is especially important when investigating diseases that can be spread through sexual activity or activities associated with injection drug use.

The position requires the ability to engage with individuals from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds in a collaborative, and supportive way. It also requires sound critical thinking and decision-making skills, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and the ability to discuss sensitive topics, including sexual behavior, in a non-judgmental manner.

This position requires proficiency with the Microsoft Office 365 suite (especially Outlook and Excel).

The position may require working non-standard hours (i.e., evenings, weekends). The position may require some travel and occasional participation in off-site functions.

The position may require specimen collection and transport following required training in specimen collection procedures and personal protective equipment.