



UNION JOB DESCRIPTION

JD1109

JOB TITLE:	Communicable Disease Nurse	JOB DESCRIPTION NO.:	80080/N.VI.25001.003
CLASSIFICATION:	Community Health - Profile Classification - Level 3	GRID/PAY LEVEL:	NL3
COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT:	Nurses Bargaining Association	HSCIS NO.:	25001
UNION:	BCNU	JOB/CLASS CODE:	SI: 80080 CINI: 25001
PROGRAM/DEPARTMENT:	Population & Family Health, Public Health, Communicable Disease	BENCHMARKS (If Applicable):	
REPORTING TO:	Coordinator or Designate		
FACILITY/SITE:	Various VIHA Sites (Victoria Health Unit, Nanaimo Health Unit, Courtenay Health Unit)		

JOB SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Vision, Purpose, and Values, and strategic direction of Island Health (Vancouver Island Health Authority), patient and staff safety is a priority and a responsibility shared by everyone; as such, the requirement to continuously improve quality and safety is inherent in all aspects of this position.

Reporting to Communicable Disease Coordinator and under the direction of the local Medical Health Officer (MHO), the Communicable Disease (CD) Nurse is part of a public health team that aims to implement epidemiological methods for the investigation of reportable communicable disease in Island Health. The position entails delivery of preventive clinical services as well as CD education, consultation and counseling in accordance with established policies and procedures and based on a Population Health, Wellness and Harm Reduction philosophy of practice. CD investigation of individual cases, clusters and outbreaks including reportable blood borne disease, vaccine preventable disease, sexually transmitted infections (STI), including HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and some enteric and zoonotic disease.

Travel may be a requirement of this position. Transportation arrangements must meet the operational requirements of Island Health in accordance with the service assignment and may require the use of a personal vehicle.

TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Follow up of cases, contacts and outbreaks of reportable communicable disease, in a timely and organized manner, with provision of preventive clinical services, counselling and education to adults and children in a variety of settings (individual, family, group, community, clinic, school and office).
- Interprets laboratory results and order additional tests as appropriate.
 - Initiates case and contact follow-up in accordance with the established provincial guidelines and in consultation with the CD Coordinator and the MHO or their designates.
 - Interviews adult and child cases and contacts, including family, work and social contacts, as appropriate.
 - Liaises with community partners and other programs within and outside of Island Health.
 - Administers or coordinates the release of prophylactic immunotherapy and/or chemotherapy as per Provincial Guidelines and in consultation with the CD Coordinator and the MHO or their designates.
 - Educates and counsels clients from a Population Health, Wellness and Harm Reduction perspective.
 - Advocates on behalf of client on CD related issues and refer appropriately.

- Is alert to and report clusters, trends and outbreaks of reportable disease.
 - Maintains required statistical documentation including entry into the appropriate electronic database.
 - Generates reports as appropriate or at the request of the CD Coordinator, the CD Manager or the local MHO.
 - Provides surge capacity in other CD nurse positions, programs and locations.
 - Provides support to other sites.
2. Responds to inquiries from physicians, nurses and other health care professionals, other professional organizations, community groups and individuals regarding Provincial and Island Health Communicable Disease and Immunization policy.
- Participates in the development of new, or identify existing resources for use in CD education and counseling.
 - Refers clients and health care professionals appropriately for a wide range of CD issues including consideration of the health determinants.
 - Provides in-services on CD issues as directed by the CD Coordinator.
3. Provides support to STI clinics.
- Works as part of a multidisciplinary team.
 - Provides pre and post-test information and test results to clients in person or by telephone.
 - Administers treatment to clients in accordance with BC College of Nurses and Midwives Decision Support Tools.
 - Administers appropriate adult immunizations related to high-risk sexual activity in accordance with the Provincial Immunization Guidelines.
 - Provides comprehensive assessment as required for clients experiencing or at risk for STIs.
4. Immunizes infants, children and adults against vaccine preventable diseases.
5. Provides support to Population and Public Health (PPH) Program projects, initiatives and system changes:
- Participates on committees and working groups as directed by the CD Coordinator.
 - Contributes to PPH policy, guidelines and standards development.
 - Provides surge capacity in other Public Health nurse positions, programs and locations.
 - Participates in research as directed by the CD Coordinator.
6. Performs other duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education, Training And Experience

Graduation from a recognized nursing program with community or public health component and 2 years' recent related experience, or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience. Registration with BC College of Nurses and Midwives as a practicing RN(C) registrant. Current BC College of Nurses and Midwives certified practice for STI management. Current BCCDC Immunization Certification. A minimum of two years recent public health nursing experience with a CD component or evidence of an equivalent combination of training, education and experience. Valid BC Driver's License.

Skills And Abilities

- Knowledge of reportable communicable diseases, including vaccine preventable disease, blood borne disease, sexually transmitted infection, tuberculosis, enteric and zoonotic disease.
- Knowledge of immunization related to reportable communicable diseases.
- Knowledge of philosophies of practice in Population Health, Wellness, and Harm Reduction.

- Ability to work as a member of a multidisciplinary team seeking direction from and keeping the CD Coordinator and the local MHO informed on a case-by-case basis.
- Ability to coordinate tasks, multitask and work under stress and deadline pressures.
- Demonstrates appropriate and timely decision-making, including the ability to prioritize in response to divergent and emergency situations.
- Ability to communicate, both in verbal and written capacity, in a clear and concise manner.
- Demonstrates strong communication and interpersonal skills, both face-to-face and by telephone, when dealing with clients under stress.
- Ability to convey a non-judgmental attitude while interviewing, educating and counseling clients from multiple cultures and lifestyle choices, on confidential, personal and sensitive issues.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Ability to foster good public relations and adhere to VIHA Communications policy.
- Effective interviewing, education and counseling skills.
- Demonstrates clinical competence congruent with the CD Nurse role.