

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

EST: XX.23

**DEFINITION:** Under administrative direction, provides medical oversight of the County's health protection programs; enforces health orders, rules, ordinances, and statutes; provides leadership in the community on public health issues; establishes County health care policy; acts as the County liaison and medical expert to the state and federal governments, the local medical community, and other agencies and community groups; and performs related duties as required.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:** This is a single-position class in the Public Health Department. Incumbents are appointed by the Board of Supervisors and report to executive leadership or to a Department Head. The incumbent is responsible for carrying out the statutory responsibilities of the County Public Health Officer. This is an at-will classification that serves at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors.

This class is distinguished from the Public Health Department Head who operates under policy direction of the Board of Supervisors and within state and federal law, providing oversight and policy direction to the various divisions and organizational units of a broad-based Public Health Department and provides oversight of fiscal, administrative and programmatic functions of the Department.

This class is further distinguished from the Public Health Medical Director (Chief Medical Officer) by its responsibility for public health program policy development and direction, coordination of services, supervision of subordinate professional medical staff assigned to disease control and prevention, and its responsibilities to perform the statutory requirements and functions of the County Public Health Officer.

This class is further distinguished from supervisory physician classes in that the latter direct specific areas of program responsibility or medical practice, whereas the Public Health Officer directs the medical oversight for all public health programs.

**EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:** Duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Enforces rules, orders, and statutes related to public health; may authorize the incarceration of infectious persons who are willfully endangering public health; with the Director of Environmental Health Services, co-authorizes the closing of commercial food establishments found to be in violation of environmental health laws.
2. Serves as point of contact with the state for updates and mandates on a variety of programs, such as AIDS, immunization, sexually transmitted diseases, COVID-19, and environmental health; communicates information and mandates to program directors and coordinates appropriate responses.
3. Interfaces with and acts as the departmental liaison to the private and non-profit health care sectors, explaining the department's functions and operations, directing department resources, and coordinating department response to meet community needs; testifies before legislative bodies regarding public health issues and legislative matters.
4. Supervises the preparation of epidemiological reports; analyzes epidemiological data in order to determine where to direct department resources to meet public health needs.
5. Provides medical consultation to private physicians and other personnel on matters related to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases of public health significance.
6. In conjunction with the department's Emergency Medical Services program administrator, serves a lead role in disaster and emergency preparedness and response.

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7. Provides oversight of Public Health laboratory operations, functions and performance including monitoring, coordination and design for services as needed.
8. May act for executive leadership or for the Department Head as authorized.

### **EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:** Possession of the following:

- 1) A valid license as a physician and surgeon issued by the State of California; **and**
- 2) A valid DEA certificate for the prescription of controlled medications; **and**
- 3) Three years of any combination of experience as a public health physician and/or primary care physician, including managerial experience.

### **ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:**

Eligibility to obtain Medi-Care and Medi-Cal provider licenses from program fiscal intermediaries may be required, as well as eligibility for hospital privileges in local acute care hospitals.

A Master's Degree in Public Health is highly desirable, as is completion of a residency in preventative medicine.

Possession of a valid California Class C Driver's License may be required to perform the essential job functions of this position.

**Knowledge of:** federal, state, and County laws related to public and community health programs; public health care issues, policy, and programs, including epidemiology, environmental health, and maternal and child health; principles, practices, and terminology of modern medicine, public health and the social determinants of health, including current trends in policy, research, treatment, prevention, education and related issues; clinical medicine, including emergency, primary care, and specialty medicine; accepted clinical practices; public health administration; basic budgeting; community needs, resources and organizations related to public health and medical care; principles of disaster and emergency preparedness and response, including biological, chemical terrorism and weapons of mass destruction; medical ethics.

**Ability to:** organize and prioritize work; analyze and evaluate data, draw conclusions, and develop responses; learn, interpret, and apply laws and regulations pertaining to public health and medical services; exercise independent judgment; establish and maintain effective working relationships with health care professionals (including other County Health Officers regionally and statewide), the Public Health Department Head, County Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, community groups, public health agencies, other County managers, subordinates and others; provide clinical direction and training to physicians and allied health professionals; establish standards and evaluate performance; communicate technical information effectively to persons with varying degrees of medical knowledge orally and in writing; prepare a variety of written documents and reports; analyze and interpret medical and public health data, and complex situations accurately to adopt an effective course of action; learn departmental operations and services; allocate resources; promote concern for public health with agency staff, County and City governments, and community groups, accurately assess medical and liability risk regarding public health; maintain objectivity.