



Yakima Health District

Health Officer

Salary: Depending on Qualifications

Purpose of the Position:

The Health Officer serves as Chief Medical Officer for the Yakima Health District with responsibility as provided by statute and applicable laws, for the control and prevention of disease. Under policy direction from the local Board of Health, the Health Officer is responsible for and empowered to enforce the provisions of RCW 70.05.070, RCW 70.58.020 and other applicable state laws. Duties require providing policy guidance and recommendations to the Board of Health and the provision of innovative leadership and active collaboration with a wide range of strategic partners and stakeholders to address public health issues in a rapidly changing environment.

The Health Officer is expected to apply to varied and complex work situations a thorough and complete knowledge of policies and procedures related to the practice of medicine, in addition to a thorough and complete knowledge of public health programs, policies, laws and regulations. The incumbent provides medically accurate, scientifically proven advice or guidance to the Board of Health, the Executive Director, agency staff, the local medical community, internal and/or external advisory counsel(s), local, state, tribal and federal public health partners, the media, and the public.

Additionally, the Health Officer is required to help identify priorities and emerging trends, communicate health data and information in a variety of settings, and assist with planning for and response to bioterrorist and other public health emergencies. In coordination with communications personnel, the Health Officer will often act as spokesperson for the local health jurisdiction. The Health Officer is also expected to work closely and communicate regularly with the medical community and other community groups to build credibility for public health. Advisory groups appointed by the Board of Health work with the Health Officer and other staff to provide two-way communication. Work may be reviewed for fulfillment of provisions set forth under state law for local health officers, as well as organizational and policy objectives, effect/advice, influence, and contribution to meeting the community's needs.

Essential Job Functions:

Together with the Executive Director, advises the Board and Board committees on public health needs in the community and makes recommendations to the Board on policies and programs. Ensures the provision of expert public health advice and leadership to support and inform an evidence-based approach to planning, developing, and delivering public health services and programs.

- Provides medical/clinical oversight in the investigation of reported or suspected cases or perceived clusters of diseases or conditions considered a threat to public health. Determines appropriate action including initiating disease prevention and infection control. Provides professional and technical assistance and/or direction in surveillance activities, unusual or particularly sensitive cases.
- Develops and issues time-sensitive Health Officer Orders and enforces public health statutes, rules and regulations of the State Board of Health and State Department of Health and local health rules, regulations and ordinances. Emphasis is on communicable disease control and environmental health.
- Provides guidance on infectious diseases with community physicians and medical providers, infection control practitioners, agency staff and other providers for the purpose of enhancing surveillance of communicable disease and optimizing timely response.
- Develops and issues public health advisories to medical providers, hospitals, community agencies, and the public.
- Responsible for Tuberculosis Control.
- Serves as the Local Registrar for registering births and deaths in Yakima County.
- Designs, performs and/or oversees studies of potential threats to public health and presents findings and recommendations to the Board of Health.
- Identifies emerging medical and environmental issues and confers with and makes recommendations to appropriate staff on health-related issues.
- Participates in assessing the health status of the community. Provides oversight on comprehensive studies of potentially systemic threats to public health; researches, analyzes, compiles, prepares and presents conclusions, reports and recommended actions. Evaluates the causes of communicable diseases; determines appropriate evaluation and intervention strategies.
- Participates in the regular and systematic review of unexpected deaths among infants and children and actively participates on a multi-disciplinary team to enhance interagency communication and improve the quality of data on child deaths to identify risk factors and preventive strategies.
- Writes, reviews, and/or revises standing orders and protocols and provides advice for clinical services.
- Writes and revises the local list of notifiable conditions.
- Makes diagnoses and administers treatments as needed. Provides medical oversight of programs or activities. Certifies phlebotomy training and expertise of Disease Investigators.
- Participates in administrative appeals regarding environmental health permit denials.

- Provides medical direction during public health emergencies; assures public is protected from diseases; assures isolation, quarantine and other control measures are ordered and implemented in accordance with state RCWs and WACs.
- Acts as a visible public voice in the community for sound medical practices, emerging infectious diseases, emergency preparedness, and local public health policy, and promotes optimum public health/preventive efforts through presentations to professional, civic and lay groups.
- In close collaboration with the Board and the Executive Director, works with legislators, interest groups (e.g., Washington State Medical Association), and others on regulatory and financial initiatives.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

Experience Required:

- Shall be an experienced physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery in this state and who is qualified or provisionally qualified in accordance with the standards prescribed in RCW [70.05.051](#) through [70.05.055](#); and
- Persons holding the degree of Master of Public Health or its equivalent; or
- Persons qualified by virtue of completing three years of service as a provisionally qualified officer pursuant to RCW [70.05.053](#) through [70.05.055](#).

Licenses, Certifications and Other:

- Experience with tuberculosis patient care, *preferred*.
- Current licensure to practice medicine in the State of Washington.
- Registration with the Drug Enforcement Agency for prescription of controlled substances.
- Licenses required under RCW 70.05.050, .051, and .053
- Shall provide proof of liability coverage to cover the performance of activities in the minimum sum of \$1,000,000 per incident/\$5,000,000 aggregate.

Knowledge and Abilities:

- Knowledge of pertinent federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and policies governing public health.

- Knowledge of epidemiology, clinical activities, infectious diseases, and environmental health inspection, enforcement and regulations.
- Knowledge of operational characteristics, services and activities of public health.
- Knowledge of modern and complex principles and practices of public health.
- Skilled in consensus building, policy analyses, informed debate and interaction.
- Ability to read, understand, interpret and apply appropriately terminology, instructions, policies, procedures, legal requirements and regulations pertinent to public health law and legislation.
- Ability to fulfill commitment of providing outstanding and effective customer service.
- Ability to use tact, discretion and courtesy to gain cooperation of others.
- Ability to establish and maintain positive, effective working relationships and rapport with physicians, elected officials, attorneys, staff, representatives of other agencies and businesses, and diverse members of the public.
- Ability to understand nuances of the field of medicine, the political landscape, and the views of the general public.
- Ability to demonstrate cultural competency, interacting sensitively, effectively and professionally with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, racial, ethnic, and professional backgrounds, persons of all ages and lifestyle preferences.
- Ability to identify, coordinate and resolve a wide variety of interest in the development of public health policy.
- Ability to adapt to new technologies, keeping professional and technical skills up to date.
- Ability to effectively communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.

Job Location, Working Conditions and Equipment Utilized:

Work is performed in a variety of settings, such as an office and various community-based settings utilizing agency vehicles, telephones, audio-visual equipment and other standard office equipment including a personal computer. The incumbent will generally work in an office setting or out in the community at various settings. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate. Work may include traveling to community organizations such as schools, hospitals, clinics and social service agencies; other travel may include local or statewide for meetings and other forums. Travel is required to locations both in and out of the County, including some early morning and evening meetings, with potential for overnight travel for state meetings. Requires carrying a District cell phone as well as being on call.

Required Physical Traits:

The physical demands described above are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable

accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions. Working conditions and physical demands vary by assignment.

- Requires manual and finger dexterity and hand-eye-arm coordination to write and to operate computers and a variety of general office equipment. Requires mobility to accomplish other desktop work, retrieve files, and to move to various locations throughout Yakima County.
- Requires visual acuity to read computer screens, printed materials, and detailed information; specific vision abilities required by this classification include close vision, distance vision and color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.
- Required to use hand to eye coordination, handle, feel or operate objects, tools, or controls.
- Requires ability to drive an automobile and sufficient mobility to access various locations.
- May involve occasional kneeling, squatting, crouching, stooping, crawling, standing, bending, climbing (to stack, store or retrieve supplies or various office equipment or files).
- Lifting and carrying up to 50 pounds occasionally with or without assistance (example: a box of copy paper).
- Requires the ability to communicate with others orally, face to face, video, by telephone and via email.

- Must be able to obtain a valid Washington State driver's license within 30 days of employment and possess auto insurance, or be able to demonstrate the ability to travel throughout the county during adverse weather conditions;
- The successful candidate will be required to complete a thorough background investigation which includes the review of the individual's criminal history
- Must be able to legally work in the United States as a citizen or possess appropriate immigration paperwork;
- Must prove or obtain immunity to measles, mumps, rubella and varicella diseases within thirty days of employment;
- Must be current with pertussis immunization within thirty (30) days of employment.
- Must prove or obtain immunity to Hepatitis B disease within the first nine (9) months of employment.
- Must provide documentation of the results of a tuberculosis test (i.e. tuberculin skin test or interferon gamma release assay) administered within the previous (90) ninety days or be tested prior to employment.
- Must be a resident of Yakima County.

The statements contained herein reflect general details as necessary to describe the principal functions of this job, the level of knowledge and skill typically required, and the scope of responsibility, but should not be considered an all-inclusive listing of work requirements. Individuals may perform other duties as assigned including work in other functional areas to cover absences or relief, to equalize peak work periods, or otherwise to balance the workload

Yakima Health District provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.

This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation and training.

How to Apply:

Resume and cover letter for Interim Health Officer position must be submitted by 11:59pm on January 25, 2021 to ryan.ibach@co.yakima.wa.us or mailed to 1210 Ahtanum Ridge Drive Union Gap, WA 98903. The resume and cover letter should include information about relevant work experience, skills and abilities applicable to the job. Full time Health Officer position is open until filled.

To learn more about the Yakima Health District: www.yakimahealthdistrict.org

The Yakima Health District is an Equal Opportunity Employer that embraces diversity.