



MICROBIOLOGIST I / II MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

This is a grant-funded position. Depending on candidates' qualifications (described below), the Microbiologist vacancy can be filled at either the **Microbiologist I** or **Microbiologist II** level. A Microbiologist I is eligible for promotion to the Microbiologist II level after being successfully employed for two years and having attained eligibility for certification. The eligible list resulting from this examination may be used to fill similar City of Milwaukee positions.

Benefits of Working for the City of Milwaukee

The Milwaukee Health Department is a leader in assuring that Milwaukee is the healthiest city in the nation. Professional and innovative work environment, including a 15,000 square foot public health laboratory with a state-of-the-art Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory and amplification laboratory capabilities ♦ Satisfaction of working in a highly-respected municipal government and contributing to the Milwaukee community ♦ No travel ♦ Competitive salary ♦ Excellent benefits

PURPOSE: Under the direction of the Deputy Laboratory Director, the Microbiologist I/II performs a range of professional microbiologist assignments for the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) Laboratory, including processing and examining clinical and environmental specimens for the detection of microorganisms using biochemical, immunological, microscopic, and molecular methods; characterizing microbes of public health importance, including emergency response to bio threats as a designated Biosafety Level 3 laboratory, following approved CDC procedures; performing duties assigned in the control of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs); performing duties related to environmental, food, dairy, and water microbiology programs; participating in maintaining laboratory quality control and quality assurance, and adhering to safety and security practices and policies.

ESSENTIAL TASKS:

Clinical Microbiology:

- Process clinical specimens, isolate organisms, and perform biochemical, serological, microscopic, or molecular tests to identify bacterial, fungal, and parasitic agents, including *Legionella*, *Mycobacterium*, *Bordetella*, *Mycoplasma*, and other pathogenic agents.
- Perform antimicrobial susceptibility tests.
- Participate in laboratory proficiency testing, following regulatory guidelines.

Sexually Transmitted Disease Microbiology:

- Use NAAT (nucleic-acid amplification test) methods to detect *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) and *Chlamydia trachomatis*; isolate and characterize GC for final identification; perform GC susceptibility testing; test for the isolation and identification of *Mycoplasma* and/or *Trichomonas*; and read genital Gram stains and wet preps.

Serological Testing:

- Perform VDRL, RPR, and TPPA tests for syphilis, and interpret test results.

Environmental Microbiology:

- Process environmental samples for the detection of pathogenic organisms, including protozoan parasites, in potable, recreational, and surface

- Examine food, dairy, and water samples for specific pathogens, indicators of pathogenic organisms, or to determine the bacteriological quality of the product.
- Perform bacterial typing and DNA fingerprinting using pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) and other molecular methods per CDC guidelines.

Other Duties:

- Maintain records, participate in quality assurance and quality control efforts, monitor equipment and safety, and respond to client queries.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

- While performing the duties of this job, employees may be exposed to infectious agents or toxic laboratory chemicals.
- The Microbiologist I/II must be willing and able to do the following: 1) wear a particulate respirator (N95 or higher), and have a respirator fit test annually; 2) have a TB skin test annually; 3) participate in the Federal Select Agent Program (Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002); and 4) obtain FBI background clearance.
- This is a first-shift position. However, public health and security emergencies – though rare – may

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water samples using conventional and molecular methods.

- Interpret and report relevant test results.

require Microbiologists to be available during non-standard hours and/or weekends as well as to carry pagers.

Reasonable accommodations requested by qualified individuals with disabilities will be made in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR MICROBIOLOGIST I:

1. Bachelor's Degree in medical technology, clinical or environmental microbiology, bacteriology/ microbiology, or a closely related biological science, with a minimum of twelve credit hours in microbiology from an accredited college or university.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR MICROBIOLOGIST I:

- Related laboratory experience, preferably in a clinical or public health setting.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR MICROBIOLOGIST II:

1. Bachelor's Degree in medical technology, clinical or environmental microbiology, bacteriology/ microbiology, or a closely related biological science, with a minimum of twelve credit hours in microbiology from an accredited college or university, **AND** two years of experience, preferably within the last four years, performing tests similar to those described above, ideally in a clinical or public health setting.

Equivalent combinations of education and experience may be considered.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR BOTH POSITIONS:

2. Nationally-recognized certification such as one of the following within one year of employment:
 - a. Microbiology (M) – American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification
 - b. Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) – American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification
 - c. Molecular Biology (MB) – American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification
 - d. Specialist in Microbiology (SM) – American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification
 - e. National Registry of Certified Microbiologists (NRCM) – American Society for Microbiology (ASM)
3. Valid driver's license at time of appointment and throughout employment.
4. Residency in the City of Milwaukee within six months of appointment and throughout employment.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

College transcripts are required and must be received within three business days after the application period closes. College transcripts may be either attached to the application, sent to staffinginfo@milwaukee.gov, or sent to Box MB-MHD, Department of Employee Relations, City of Milwaukee, 200 E. Wells St, Room 706 City Hall, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Student copies are acceptable. Only applications with transcripts will be considered; applications without transcripts will be rejected.

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KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS:

- Knowledge of microbiological science, public health, and infectious disease.
- Knowledge of diagnostic molecular microbiology and molecular biology procedures, safety, and quality controls.
- Expertise in using highly complex equipment (e.g. thermocyclers, DNA sequencers, microscopes, biosafety cabinets) in a clinical or public health laboratory setting.
- Knowledge of public safety and security.
- Knowledge of mathematics and ability to make accurate calculations.
- Ability to read and interpret complex documents and publications.
- Ability to work well both independently and as part of a synergistic professional team.
- Interpersonal skills; ability to work effectively with diverse staff, external agencies, and the public.
- Oral communication and presentation skills.
- Written communication and reporting skills.
- Skill in using specialized computer applications, particularly laboratory information systems (LIS), inventory control, and sequence analysis software.
- Skill in using standard computer applications such as word processing, spreadsheet, database, and the Internet.
- Analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Judgment and decision-making skills.
- Research and investigative skills.
- Planning, organizational, and time management skills.
- Ability to stay abreast of best practices in microbiology through on-going professional development activities.
- Ability to remain calm in stressful situations.
- Ability to respond to sensitive inquiries or complaints effectively.
- Honesty, integrity, and ability to maintain patient and laboratory confidentiality.
- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds.

CURRENT PAY RANGES:

- **Microbiologist I** (Pay Range 2AN): \$34,279-\$47,987 annually with excellent benefits.
- **Microbiologist II** (Pay Range 2DN): \$41,458-\$58,037 annually with excellent benefits.

THE SELECTION PROCESS will be job related and will consist of one or more of the following: education and experience evaluation; written, oral, or performance tests; or other assessment methods. The Department of Employee Relations reserves the right to call only the most qualified candidates to oral and performance examinations. Oral examinations may include written exercises. Selection process component weights will be determined by further analysis of the job.

The examination will be held as soon as practical after **November 9, 2012**. Receipt of applications may be discontinued at any time after this date without prior notice, however, recruitment may continue until the needs of the City have been met. Qualified applicants will be notified of the date, time and place of the examination. Unless otherwise required by law, the City of Milwaukee will not provide alternate test administration. The applicant is responsible for attending all phases of the job selection process at the time and place designated by the City of Milwaukee.

APPLICATIONS and further information may be obtained in person or via mail from the City of Milwaukee Department of Employee Relations, 200 E Wells St, Room 706, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3554, from www.milwaukee.gov/jobs, or by calling 414.286.3751.