

Virologist I / II

NOTE: The Virologist vacancy may be filled at either the I or II level. A Virologist I may be eligible for promotion to Virologist II level upon meeting the established qualifications for that level (see below). This position is first shift only.

THE PURPOSE: This position works under the supervision of the Chief Molecular Scientist and performs day-to-day routine diagnostic testing primarily in the Virology & Molecular Science laboratory section using cell culture, serology & molecular techniques. Work tasks and responsibilities include isolation of viruses, *Chlamydia*, performing microbial diagnostic tests, record keeping, data entry and reporting of results using the Laboratory Information System (LIS). The position also assists in maintaining the virus cell culture, ordering reagents and supplies, maintaining safety and related equipment, and preparing laboratory reports.

Note: This position may also involve working with highly pathogenic microorganisms. Incumbents must be aware of and adhere to standard laboratory safety practices when working with potentially infectious clinical and environmental specimens.

The ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Propagation of multiple cell lines for routine isolation of viruses and *Chlamydia*, including sample processing, media preparation and responsible for specimens order entry in LIS to assist in billing.
- Perform molecular assays for rapid detection of Gonorrhea and *Chlamydia* that includes maintenance of the instrument and participate in proficiency testing.
- Analyze potable and sewage water samples for environmental viruses including sample processing, prepare/analyze cultures, send reports and answer queries from clients.
- Perform a variety of Enzyme Immuno Assays (EIA) and fluorescent antibody (FA) tests for detection of viral antigens and antibodies (Flu, HIV, measles, mumps etc.), including participation in proficiency testing, and maintaining instrument, interpretation of test findings and sending out results.
- Perform molecular techniques, e.g., conventional and Real-time PCR & DNA sequencing for the detection of viral and bacterial agents, including sample processing and extraction of nucleic acids.
- Keep records, monitor safety equipment and perform other duties as assigned.

THE REQUIREMENTS:

For both Virologist I and Virologist II

1. Bachelor's degree in Microbiology, Medical Technology/Clinical Laboratory Science or Biology from an accredited college or university with a minimum of 12 credit hours in Microbiology.
2. Eligibility for certification by a nationally or statewide recognized certifying agency such as the National Registry for Microbiology (NRM), American Society for Clinical Pathology - Medical Technologist MT(ASCP), Clinical Laboratory Scientist in Microbiology (CLS)(M)(NCA) of the National Credentialing Agency (NCA) for Laboratory Personnel, Inc. or other certifying agency approved by the Director of the Public Health Laboratories **within 1 year of employment**.
3. Residency in the City of Milwaukee within 6 months of appointment and throughout employment.

Additional Requirement for Virologist II

At least 2 years of post-degree professional experience in diagnostic virology, bacteriology or equivalent in a clinical or public health laboratory. NOTE: A related Master's degree may substitute for one year of the required experience.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILL AND ABILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to complete assigned duties independently.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to maintain good working relationships with supervisors and employees in a multi-cultural work environment.
- Proficiency in basic computer applications.
- Good vision with correction including close, distance, color, and peripheral vision; depth perception and ability to adjust focus is key for microscopy.
- Knowledge and understanding of laboratory safety.
- Knowledge of Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA) regulations is a plus.

The Current Salary Range is:

Virologist I (640): \$37,312 - \$42,269 with excellent benefits.

Virologist II (642): \$43,734 - \$53,034 with excellent benefits.

NOTE: Appointment may be above the beginning of the range depending on qualifications.