

POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

Immunization Branch Pediatrician/Immunologist

Estimated Hours per Week: up to 26

Position Description

Functions as a medical immunization expert and pediatric consultant for services relating to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of vaccine preventable diseases (“VPDs”) and assessment of immunization coverage rates statewide. These responsibilities are accomplished by providing medical and technical expert advice regarding immunization and vaccine preventable disease prevention to professionals and nonprofessionals based upon the immunization recommendations and practices stipulated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (“ACIP”) in the United States, and Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) particularly for immunization activities, and school entry requirements.

Job Duties

- Provide immunization pediatrician/physician technical support services to the DOH on a temporary basis for an average of twenty (20) hours per week, not to exceed forty (40) hours per week. These services shall include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - This position would represent the IMB as an Immunization Medical Expert for VPDs and immunization, to include but not exclusive to consulting with community healthcare providers on the diagnosis of suspected VPDs, educating the medical community and serving as a Hawaii Immunization Program Expert to media.
 - Stay up-to-date with immunization knowledge and activities pertinent to the Hawaii Immunization Program.
 - Provide medical consultation, education and serve as a subject matter expert for:
 - COVID-19 and other routine vaccinations (e.g., measles, mumps, rubella, Polio, Hepatitis A, Human papillomavirus [“HPV”]),
 - Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome,
 - Breakthrough COVID-19 cases in vaccinated individuals,
 - VPD cases,
 - VPD Immunoglobulins, and
 - Inquiries from healthcare providers.
 - Provide medical review, assistance, and leadership in the development of:
 - Press releases,
 - Medical advisories,
 - VPD investigation protocols,
 - Standing orders,
 - Website updates,
 - Publications,
 - Presentations, and
 - Abstracts.
 - Provide support in reporting to the DOH and legislature officials and in the drafting of related legislation and amendments to the Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) and the Hawaii Administrative Rules (“HAR”).

- Assist with the development of provider education programs and clinical guidance on:
 - COVID-19 and other VPDs,
 - All routine vaccine administration,
 - Vaccine storage and handling,
 - Adverse events post vaccinations, and
 - Best practices in communicating with patients and parents on the importance of vaccinations.
- Assist in reviewing the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (“VAERS”) submissions on reports from Hawaii when identified as significant by Immunization Branch personnel.
- Participate in teaching and training activities, which includes presenting Grand Rounds and educational sessions for Healthcare Providers, Public Health staff, and the general public.
- Communicate immunization information from Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (“ACIP”) meetings and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) recommendations to IMB Staff and DOH Leadership when needed.
- Assist in meeting with partners/stakeholders to develop an overall immunization strategy to increase vaccination coverage across all age ranges and in the development of strategies to minimize exemptions.
- As necessary, serve as a medical advisor to the IMB and collaborate with the State Medical Epidemiologist and the DOH physician.
- Provide medical coverage relating to immunizations in collaboration with the State Medical Epidemiologist (or designee) in special VPD clinics held by the IMB, such as, but not limited to:
 - Outbreak control of measles, mumps, pertussis, or
 - In the event of mass immunization needs during an outbreak or during a bioterrorist attack.
- Assist in applying for grants and providing annual and other reports as required by the federal government.
- Audit medical records as needed in VPD cases.
- Make recommendations for improvement to State programs based on information learned.
- Develop and maintain continuous working relationships with individual physicians, community health and human services organizations, various professional organizations, health plan providers and other branches of state government.
- Serve as medical advisor in outbreak control mass immunization clinics which includes:
 - Collaboration with Public Health Nursing (“PHN”) Branch during public health threats of VPD outbreaks and bioterrorism emergencies involving VPDs and immunizations, and

- Consultation with Department of Education officials and private school authorities during outbreak control interventions based on HAR Chapter 157.
- Other relevant duties as assigned.

Minimum Physician Qualifications

- The staff working in this position shall have a minimum total of five (5) years experience with a minimum of:
 - Two years of prior experience in immunization work in practice;
 - One year of public health work experience;
 - Two years of experience with pediatric populations;
 - Physician certified or eligible by the American Board of Pediatrics, American Board of Family Medicine or American Board of Internal Medicine; and
 - Must possess a valid, unrestricted medical license in a state or territory of the United States. Upon appointment, must possess a valid license or limited and temporary license to practice medicine or osteopathy in the State of Hawaii.

Preferred Additional Qualifications

- Strong background and understanding about Immunology and Immunizations.
- Strong decision-making and problem-solving skills.
- Strong critical thinking skills.
- Strong communication (written and verbal) and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced environment.
- Strong positive attitude and professional demeanor.
- Ability to educate and train at Grand Rounds, sessions with Healthcare Providers, Public Health staff, and the general public.