

County Health Director

What is the County Health Director? Has it ever been a thought of interest? How does it play a roll in the lives of citizens? What are the requirements to be a County Health Director? The next few paragraphs will provide information about the County Health Director.

As the County Health Director, lots of time may be spent reading and generating emails, talking on the phone, and/or meeting with various county and state officials about public health related issues. The County Health Director also spends a lot of time signing paper work for things like purchase orders for supplies or equipment and payment on contracts or monitoring budgets. The director has a lot to do, so it is very useful to have a to do list, and rely on staff to assist in finishing the list.

As with any job, there can be good and bad. Some good parts of this job may be working on a team, and seeing how the programs and services help impact community health. A lot of public health work involves epidemiology, which means the study of health. It is very interesting to be able to track data

and see how different health conflicts are improving or worsening. Some of the bad parts really depend on the person, but for a lot of people it could be making decisions that other people do not agree with. For example, someone may want to build a house on some property, and when the soil is checked, it may not be able to support a septic tank system. So, the request to build or do whatever else on the property is denied. These are the decisions that make the job difficult because it upsets the people.

The education required to be a County Health Director is a masters degree in Public Health. Which is six years of college.

Responsibilities of the County Health Director consists of administration and management of the local health department. Director is mostly responsible for clinical services, such as, WIC, Home Health, Dental clinic, animal control, health education, and many more.

What would happen if there was not a County Health Director? What effects would it have on the county? If there was not a County Health Director, certain decisions and functions would be limited. Supervisors could carry out their programs and

services for a limited time, but at some point budget and program decisions would need to be approved in order to operate. Unless the state or county changed the management structure of local Health departments the director is necessary.

County Health Directors is a career that can be interesting and fun, but is also very serious and holds a lot of responsibility.