

EPIDEMIOLOGIST

Q What do you like best about your job?

A It would be hard for anyone to find another career that offered so many opportunities to work with such a broad range of professionals and topics. The word “epidemiology” comes from the word “epidemics”. Indeed part of our job involves the scientific study and tracking of infectious diseases. Yet, over the years, the field has expanded so that epidemiologists now study all sorts of diseases, injuries and conditions that affect the health of populations.

Q Describe your typical day

A Part of the appeal of the work is that every day is different and the focus can change in a blink of an eye.

One of my recent days started off investigating an outbreak- trying to detect what food item had likely made the guests at a public dinner event ill. That was followed by planning a training workshop on a new analysis technique for large health surveys. Later, I reviewed a report that highlighted the social determinants of health in the Waterloo Region. Somewhere in between all those activities, I met with a university researcher to discuss a research proposal.

Q How are you making a difference?

A The work of an epidemiologist helps to provide evidence for other public health professionals to make informed decisions and take action to prevent disease or improve the population’s health. The aim of epidemiology is to determine those factors that make a group of people more or less susceptible to disease or help to keep them healthy. This information helps to shape public health decision-making and planning.



“I’ve been working with Region of Waterloo Public Health since 2007 and have over 10 years experience as a Public Health Epidemiologist.”

“I have a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Anthropology from Trent University and a Master of Science in Community Health and Epidemiology from Queen’s University.”



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH

Q What do you like about working and living in Waterloo Region?

A There is a real sense that Waterloo Region is a community that quietly believes in itself and its ability to successfully innovate and evolve. One has the sense that the community is embracing its future and its growing diversity while remaining proud of its past.

Q Why did you choose to work for Region of Waterloo Public Health?

A No doubt Region of Waterloo Public Health is a progressive employer, eager to attract new employees and invest in its current work force through training opportunities. Yet what one notices from day-to-day is that it is the kind of place where people hold the doors open for you and say hello when you are walking down the hall.

Q What would you tell someone considering a career as an Epidemiologist?

A If you have an intrinsic sense of curiosity, like working with information and looking for practical solutions by providing service to the broader community- then you will enjoy being a public health epidemiologist at the Region of Waterloo.



Region of Waterloo

PUBLIC HEALTH

For information about other careers with Region of Waterloo Public Health, please contact us at 519-883-2000 ext. 5354.

www.region.waterloo.on.ca/ph

Areas You Could Work In:

Public health epidemiologists work in the Health Determinants, Planning and Evaluation division of the Public Health department and support all other divisions of Public Health.

Qualifications You Need:

- A Masters Degree in Epidemiology and two years relevant experience
- Working knowledge of public health programming as well as the impact of social, economic, and environmental factors on health
- Thorough working knowledge of relevant legislation, including Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's Mandatory Programs, Health Protection and Promotion Act, Personal Health Information Protection Act, and Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- Analytical, human relations and organizational skills
- Proficiency in the use of a computer, using a variety of software applications
- Working knowledge of computerized information systems and database management

Wage/Salary Range

\$62,244.00- \$77,805.00