

# TOMPKINS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION

Inclusion Through Diversity



## OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tompkins County Department of Human Resources Office  
125 E. Court Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
(607) 274-5526

**Tompkins County is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply**

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**TITLE:** Public Health Technician

**EXAM NO:** 21003

**SALARY:** \$20.74 per hour - 2019 Hire Rate

**EXAM DATE:** 01/13/20

**ISSUE DATE:** 11/21/19

**THE FINAL DATE TO FILE APPLICATIONS:** 12/26/19

**DATE THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM POSTING:** 12/27/19

**RESIDENCY:** Candidates must have been legal residents of Tompkins County or one of the six adjoining counties (Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Schuyler, Seneca, Tioga) for at least one month immediately preceding the date of application and maintain residency. For Examinations: The eligible list resulting from the examination will be established in accordance with the final earned numerical ratings of passing candidates regardless of residence. A municipality or district may exercise its right under section 23-4-a. of Civil Service Law to request a certification of eligible candidates who have been residents of that municipality or district for at least one month prior to appointment. After the names of residents have been exhausted, Tompkins County must then certify the names of non-residents on the list.

**A QUIET HAND HELD CALCULATOR WILL BE ALLOWED FOR THIS EXAMINATION.**

**LOCATION OF POSITIONS/VACANCIES:** There is currently one vacancy in the title of Public Health Technician located at the Tompkins County Health Department. The eligible list resulting from this open competitive examination may be used to fill any appropriate full-time, part-time, and/or temporary vacancies that may occur during the life of the eligible list. A vacancy posting will be ran in conjunction with this examination announcement.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

**(a)** Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered two-year college or university with an Associate's Degree, including a minimum of twelve credit hours in the physical and biological sciences or engineering (Acceptable natural sciences include biology, chemistry, geology, hydrology or physics); **OR**

**(b)** Satisfactory completion of sixty credit hours in a regionally accredited or New York State registered college or university including a minimum of twelve credit hours in the physical and biological sciences or engineering (Acceptable natural sciences include biology, chemistry, geology, hydrology or physics).

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:**

The applicant must possess a current valid New York State driver's license at time of appointment, and maintain such license for the duration of employment.

### **DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS:**

This technical field position exists in the County Health Department and involves responsibility for assisting Public Health Sanitarians and Engineers and carrying out the various elements of prevention and control program affecting public health. Employees in this class are responsible for making inspections and carrying out specialized phases of the Environmental Health Program in a municipal health department or agency. Duties involve gathering information and data for use by Public Health Engineers and Sanitarians in determining compliance with local and state Sanitary Code requirements. The work is performed under the direct supervision of either a higher level technical or professional employee who reviews reports and provides advisory assistance as necessary. Supervision over the work of others is not a responsibility of employees in this class. The incumbent will perform all related duties as required.

### **TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:**

- Performs routine and follow-up inspections of sanitary conditions of swimming pools, beaches, camps, food service establishments, hotels, lodging and boarding houses and other premises including public or individual water supplies and sewage disposal, air pollution, public health nuisance complaints and general sanitation;
- Collects samples of water, food or other materials for laboratory examination;
- Participates in enforcement proceedings including testifying at hearings;
- Inspects tobacco retailers to ensure compliance;
- Performs animal bite investigations, interviews persons involved and advises on procedures to follow and issues notice of violation where applicable;
- Assists with management of clinics for vaccination of animals against rabies;
- Performs routine and follow-up inspections of public health nuisances such as environmental exposures, insects, rodents, garbage and refuse, and related matters and advises local officials and the public of corrective measures;
- Performs soil tests, including visual observation of soil type, texture, strata and physical test of soil permeability;
- Inspects sites and advises home owners on design of home sewage systems depending on varying soil conditions;
- Maintains records and completes inspection reports related to the work;
- Aids home owners, local officials and commercial operators on proper sanitary operations of wells, pumps and water source protection;
- May collect, preserve and deliver suspected diseased animals to State laboratories for analysis;
- Compiles and interprets laboratory results to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

- Working knowledge of the principles and practices related to proper environmental public health inspection techniques;
- Working knowledge of applicable provisions of the State Sanitary Code related to environmental public health inspections;
- Working knowledge of general principles of biology, chemistry and general science;
- Skill in health inspection techniques;
- Ability to establish and maintain cooperative relationships with the public;
- Ability to understand and interpret written material;
- Ability to enter data into databases and tracking sheets
- Ability to read maps and drawings;
- Ability to solve arithmetic problems related to environmental public health inspections;
- Ability to prepare accurate reports;
- Willingness to work outdoors under all weather and terrain conditions;
- The employee's physical and mental condition shall be commensurate with the demands of the position.

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### **COMPLETE SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION AND EXPANDED SUBTEST DESCRIPTIONS:**

### **ARITHMETIC REASONING:**

These questions are designed to test a candidate's ability to solve an arithmetic problem presented in sentence or short paragraph form. The candidate must read the problem, understand the situation presented, decide what must be done to solve it, and apply the appropriate arithmetic operation(s) in the appropriate order to determine the correct solution.

Knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division is necessary. Questions may also involve the use of percents, decimals and fractions.

### **UNDERSTANDING AND INTERPRETING WRITTEN MATERIAL:**

These questions are designed to test how well candidates comprehend written material.

Candidates will be provided with brief reading selections and will be asked questions relating to the selections. All of the information required to answer the questions will be presented in the selection; candidates will not be required to have any special knowledge relating to the content area covered in the selections.

### **GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND GENERAL SCIENCE:**

These questions test for a basic understanding of the physical world around you and the scientific laws that govern it.

**This examination is being prepared and rated in accordance with Section 23(2) of the Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Law, Rules, and Regulations dealing with the preparation and rating of examinations, as well as establishment and certification of eligible lists for positions in the classified service will apply to this examination.**

### **TESTING FORMAT:**

This decentralized examination may be given in a written form or it may be administered on a personal computer (PC). The preferred method is computerized testing given on a PC in our testing facility. The Personnel Office will select the testing format and candidates will be notified by letter or e-mail no later than 7-10 days before the examination. Examinations will be administered on weekdays; other testing days may be arranged as necessary.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Falsification of any part of the "Application for Employment" will result in disqualification.

Accepted candidates will be notified when and where to appear for the examination. If you do not receive your notice to appear at least three days before the date of the written examination, call Tompkins County Department of Human Resources at 274-5526. If an application is disapproved, due notice will be sent. This department does not make formal acknowledgment of the receipt of an application or take responsibility for non-delivery or postal delay.

Applicants must answer every question on the application form and make sure that the application is complete in all respects. Incomplete applications will be disapproved.

**ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL, VETERANS OR DISABLED VETERANS** desiring to claim additional credit will request the Veterans Credits application form, at any time between the date of application for examination(s) and the date of the establishment of the resulting eligible list. You must meet the requirements set by NYS for these credits and they may be used only once. **YOU MAY NOT CLAIM ADDITIONAL CREDITS AFTER THE ELIGIBLE LIST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. IT IS THE CANDIDATE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO REQUEST THE VETERANS CREDIT APPLICATION FORMS AND TO SUBMIT THESE FORMS AND ANY SUPPORTING PAPERWORK BEFORE THE ELIGIBLE LIST IS ESTABLISHED.**

Tompkins County's written examinations are prepared and rated by the New York State Department of Civil Service in accordance with Section 23-2 of Civil Service Law. The provisions of the New York State Civil Service Rules and Regulations, which deal with the rating and review of the examinations apply.

The duration of the eligible lists may be fixed for a minimum of one and a maximum of four years and may be extended beyond four years if there has been a restriction against the filling of vacancies in that title.

The candidates must complete a separate "Application for Employment" for each open-competitive and/or promotional examination that the candidate is eligible to take.

All experience required meeting the acceptable training and experience is full-time experience. (Part-time experience will be credited on a prorated basis).

Appointment from an eligible list must be made from the top three candidates willing to accept the appointment.

Tompkins County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. As part of its efforts to provide employment opportunities to the physically handicapped, Tompkins County Civil Service has adopted a rule permitting the employment of qualified physically handicapped persons without competitive examination (pursuant to Section 55 of Civil Service Law). If you meet the minimum qualifications for this position and wish to know more about this rule, please contact the Tompkins County Department of Human Resources Office.

Unless otherwise notified, candidates are permitted to use quiet, hand-held, and solar or battery powered calculators. Devices with Typewriter Keyboards, Spell Checkers, Personal Digital Assistants, Address Books, Language Translators, Dictionaries or any similar devices are prohibited. You may not bring books or other reference materials.

**CROSS-FILING - APPLYING FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS IN MULTIPLE JURISDICTIONS WHEN EXAMINATIONS ARE SCHEDULED ON THE SAME DATE:** When applying for examinations across multiple jurisdictions - all of which are scheduled on the same day - you must submit a Tompkins County Cross-Filing Form. This form must be submitted no later than 4:30 PM on the final filing date of the examination. On this form, list each examination that you are taking and then tell us where you would like to sit. The purpose is to ensure that all of the test materials for the various examinations that you are taking will be available in one location. If you do not provide the cross-filing form to us by the final filing date, we cannot ensure that we can accommodate your desire to cross-file. If any of the examinations are State level examinations, you must sit at the State test center. You will still need to complete the Tompkins County cross-filing form. If sitting at the State site, the State will notify you of when and where to report for your examination(s) and you should bring all admittance letters to the State site. If you are not taking a State examination, bring all admittance letters to your chosen testing site. If you have any question please call Tompkins County Department of Human Resources Department (607) 274-5526. The Cross File form is located at <http://www.tompkins-co.org/personnel/CivilSrvForms/index.html>

**FOR RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION AND HANDICAPPED PERSONS:** If special arrangements for testing are required, please indicate this on your application.

**ALL CANDIDATES FOR EMPLOYMENT FOR POSITIONS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND BOCES GOVERNED BY TOMPKINS COUNTY CIVIL SERVICE MAY HAVE THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL REQUIREMENT. PER CHAPTER 180 OF THE LAWS OF 2000, AND BY REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, TO BE EMPLOYED IN A POSITION DESIGNATED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOCES AS INVOLVING DIRECT CONTACT WITH STUDENTS, A CLEARANCE FOR EMPLOYMENT FROM THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED.**

In conformance with Section 85-a of the Civil Service Law, children of firefighters and police officers killed in the line of duties shall be entitled to receive an additional ten points in a competitive examination for original appointment in the same municipality in which his or her parent has served. If you are qualified to participate in this examination and are a child of firefighter or police officer killed in the line of duties in this municipality, please inform this office of this matter when you submit your application for examination. A candidate claiming such credit has a minimum of two months from the application deadline to provide the necessary documentation to verify additional credit eligibility. However, no credit may be added after the eligible list has been established.

**BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION:** Applicants may be required to undergo a State and national criminal history background investigation, which will include a fingerprint check, to determine suitability for appointment. Failure to meet the standards for the background investigation may result in disqualification.

TOMPKINS COUNTY PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT, 125 EAST COURT STREET, ITHACA, NY 14850