



Royal Rangers

Merit Requirements: Silver-Bordered Merit

PUBLIC HEALTH MERIT

1. Explain how the following diseases are contracted and how they may be prevented.
 - a. Tetanus
 - b. Influenza
 - c. Syphilis
 - d. Hepatitis
 - e. Emphysema
 - f. AIDS
 - g. Encephalitis
 - h. Meningitis
 - i. Salmonellosis
 - j. Lyme disease
 - k. Genital (type 2) herpes
 - l. Lead poisoning
2. Select at least three health issues from each category below. Visit the state health agency or use its website to see how your city, state, or county addresses health issues. List health concerns, education, prevention, and statistics specific to the nine issues selected.

Family Health Issues	Community Health	Environmental Health
AIDS/HIV	Tobacco education	Air pollution control
Hygiene education	Cancer screening	Air quality
Immunization schedules	Hygiene education	Bats
Immunizations for travel	Poison	Food protection
Lead-free environment	Gun safety program	Waste
Oral health	Firearm injury statistics/costs	Pollution prevention
Reportable diseases		Regulations
Tobacco use		Rodent control
Vital statistics		Safe kids coalition
		Storm water coalition
		Tire recycling center
		Drinking water protection
		Vehicle emissions inspection
		Food protection

3. Complete the following:
 - a. List the immunizations a child should receive prior to school enrollment and the disease (s) each immunization protects against. Give the recommended age for each immunization. Tell if the vaccination is part of a series of immunizations against a particular disease.
4. Schedule a visit to a commercial food-handling establishment, such as a restaurant or a butcher shop in a supermarket. Interview the manager or a food handler after observing the food preparation, handling, and storage. Determine if food handlers are aware of and following proper food-handling procedures and the

regulations regarding food handling. Ask about the results of the facility's last health inspection. Write a report of your findings.

5. Interview a food service worker or health inspection officer. Write a report and include the following information:
 - a. Explain what causes microorganisms to grow.
 - b. Describe how these microorganisms can be kept from spreading or how they can be killed.
 - c. Explain how dishes and utensils should be washed to kill the microorganisms.
 - d. Explain the concern regarding the diseases that insects and rodents spread. Describe how insects and rodents can be controlled in any food preparation area.
6. List the job requirements of a health inspector/public health investigator in your state. List the duties of this position.