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| OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIPBULLETIN | **NO.**2024-13 |
| **DATE**December 4, 2023 |

**TO:** NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS

 OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP STAFF

 STATE APPRENTICESHIP AGENCIES

**FROM:** JOHN V. LADD /s/

 Administrator, Office of Apprenticeship

**SUBJECT:** New NOF Apprenticeable Occupation: Infection Preventionist

1. **Purpose.** To inform the staff of OA, State Apprenticeship Agencies (SAA), Registered Apprenticeship program sponsors, and other Registered Apprenticeship partners of the following new National Occupational Framework (NOF) to an apprenticeable occupation: Infection Preventionist
2. **Action Requested.** OA staff should familiarize themselves with this bulletin and the attached Work Process Schedule and Related Instruction Outline, as a source for developing apprenticeship standards and/or providing technical assistance.

Infection Preventionist will be added to the List of Occupations Recognized as Apprenticeable by OA located on www.apprenticeship.gov. A suggested Work Process Schedule and Related Instruction Outline are attached.

1. **Summary and Background.**
	1. Summary – The occupation Infection Preventionist was submitted by Mr. Zachary Boren, Senior Policy Program Manager on behalf of Urban Institute, was processed by Kirk Jefferson and approved by the OA Administrator on November 28, 2023.

The National Office has approved a new National Occupational Framework (NOF), developed in partnership with the Urban Institute. This NOF has met industry standards and approval; it covers job titles and occupational pathways, related functions and performance criteria, as well as academic, workplace and personal competencies for job success. While use of NOFs in developing standards utilizing the competency-based training approach is voluntary, no additional vetting of a Work Process Schedule (WPS) utilizing the NOF should be required where a program aligns to the occupational framework described in a NOF, beyond the basic requirements set forth in 29 CFR Part 29. While on-the-job learning (OJL) is ordinarily outlined in the WPS, sponsors who utilize a NOF must develop the Related Instruction Outline, which should be included in the standards. Within certain limits, the sponsors of NOF apprenticeship programs are permitted to customize the job functions or competencies contained in a NOF for Psychiatric Technician occupation.

However, OA encourages the use of all core competencies to be included in the approved WPS.

* 1. Background –

***New/Revised Occupation Background -*** Under 29 CFR section 29.4, an occupation for a RAP must meet the following criteria to be determined apprenticeable:

1. Involve skills that are customarily learned in a practical way through a structured, systematic program of on-the job supervised learning:
2. Be clearly identified and commonly recognized throughout an industry;
3. Involve the progressive attainment of manual, mechanical, or technical skills and knowledge which, in accordance with the industry standard for the occupation, would require the completion of at least 2,000 hours of on-the-job learning to attain; and
4. Require related instruction to supplement the on-the job learning.
5. **New NOF Apprenticeable Occupation.** The occupation Infection Preventionist was submitted for an apprenticeability determination.

Infection Preventionist
O\*NET-SOC CODE: 19-1041.00

RAPIDS Code: 3063

Type of Training: Time-based (2,000 Hours), Hybrid (2,000-3,000 Hours), Competency-based (1 Year)

Infection Preventionist perform the following duties:

* Conducts risk assessments and develops surveillance plans for epidemiologic investigation;
* Assesses infection risks of design, construction, and renovation that impact patient care settings and environments where air, water, supplies, medications, or food contamination could occur; and
* Demonstrates proficiency in microbiology, including basic understanding of bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. (e.g., organism recovery sites, basic knowledge of testing modalities, and interpretation of results

Infection Preventionist (IP) have not typically entered the field directly through a defined university curriculum pathway. Instead, most IPs prepare through additional on-the-job training and education after serving in a health care occupation, most commonly as Registered Nurses or in other disciplines such as medical technology, microbiology, or public health. Although IP-specific degree programs are now becoming more widely available, most IPs in practice do not have these specialized degrees.

The most common setting for most IPs is hospitals. But IP positions are found in a wide variety of venues, including but not limited to outpatient clinics, long-term care facilities, ambulatory surgery centers, dialysis centers, psychiatric hospitals, local and state health departments, dental offices, acute care educational settings, prisons, schools, entertainment, and sports venues, and in the travel industry, such as cruise lines and hotels.

Apprenticeship Prerequisites:

General prerequisites for this occupation include having a bachelor’s degree plus experience in a health care–related field as a Registered Nurse, public health professional, epidemiologist, medical technician, laboratory scientist, or microbiologist. However, the apprenticeship program prepared in this National Occupational Framework intends to remove some of the current work and credential requirements for participation in the occupation.

1. **Inquiries.** If you have any questions please contact Doug McPherson, Supervisory Apprenticeship and Training Representative, at (202) 693-3783 or mcpherson.douglass@dol.gov.
2. **Attachments.**

