



March 28, 2022

Dear Colleague:

This letter is an update on Operation Allies Welcome (OAW). Specifically, it focuses on the overseas medical examinations and tuberculosis (TB) notifications for Afghans who are arriving in the United States for resettlement.

OAW Phase 2 Examinations

We are now entering Phase 2 of Operation Allies Welcome, and it will resemble routine immigration pathways. During Phase 2, the medical examinations for entry into the United States are being done overseas in accordance with the same CDC Technical Instructions for Panel Physicians that are followed at panel sites around the world. Persons who have TB disease are being required to complete treatment for TB with a CDC-recommended regimen before their applications to enter the United States can be approved.

You will be notified of persons with TB conditions who are resettling in your jurisdiction via the usual Electronic Disease Notification (EDN) system instead of the interjurisdictional notifications that were used in Phase 1, and you will be completing the TB Follow-up Worksheet in EDN as you normally would for immigrants and refugees.

Afghan Arrivals at the Virginia Processing Center

As they arrive in the United States, some Afghan newcomers will be staying approximately 30 days at a processing center in Virginia. Tuberculosis-related problems are not expected during that stayover, and routine medical follow-up for B1 and B2 TB conditions will not be done. As a precaution, the CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ) has been coordinating with public health officials in the Commonwealth of Virginia in vigilance for conditions of public health concern, which include TB.

Completion of Phase 1

Phase 1 of Operation Allies Welcome was completed early in 2022. As described in our Dear Colleague letter of September 24, 2021, the medical examinations were being done at Safe Havens located at military bases in the United States. Tuberculosis conditions were communicated by interjurisdictional notifications between states and DGMQ and by refugee health systems. Some Afghan newcomers who had their TB conditions diagnosed during Phase 1 still might be relocating within the United States. Please contact your project officer for the TB cooperative agreement if you are encountering problems.

Eligibility for Refugee Health Benefits

All current Afghan refugees, special immigrant visa holders, and asylees are eligible for refugee health benefits. Please work closely with your colleagues in refugee health programs while Phase 2 of Operations Allies Welcome is progressing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Chorba".

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