



## Alert: Guidance for Providers Caring for Newcomers Arriving through the Uniting for Ukraine Program

August 25, 2022

Dear State Refugee Health Coordinators and Refugee Health Partners:

### **Background**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is supporting the arrival of Ukrainian newcomers, working closely with federal, state, and local partners, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Ukrainian newcomers may be admitted to the United States (U.S.) on [several different categories](#), including humanitarian parole through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) *Uniting for Ukraine* (U4U) program, non-immigrant short-term visas (tourist or business), immigrant visas, or refugee status. This notification provides an overview of the U4U program, additional clinical considerations, and resources for clinicians and others working with Ukrainian newcomers. For information on polio, measles, and childhood vaccination coverage refer to the *CDC Update Alert Notification: Update Alert: Interim Clinical Considerations for Providers Caring for Newcomers from Ukraine* (sent May 10, 2022).

### **Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) Program**

*Uniting for Ukraine* (U4U) provides a pathway for Ukrainian citizens and their immediate family members who are outside the United States to come to the United States and stay temporarily in a two-year period of parole. Ukrainians participating in U4U must have a supporter in the United States who agrees to provide them with financial support for the duration of their stay in the United States. All individuals arriving through the U4U program must attest to having received certain vaccines and undergo TB screening within a defined number of days following US arrival. For additional information on the U4U Program and required attestation please refer to [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](#).

### **Benefits**

As of May 21, 2022, the [Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022](#) (AUSAA) authorizes the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to provide [resettlement assistance and other benefits available for refugees](#) to specific Ukrainian populations and other non-Ukrainian individuals in response to their displacement from Ukraine and entry into the United States. Eligible individuals as defined in the AUSAA and by ORR ([Policy Letter 22-13](#)) will be able to receive mainstream benefits (e.g., Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Supplemental Security Income), resettlement assistance, and other benefits available to refugees ([Fact Sheet](#)), with the exception of an initial resettlement program, customarily referred to as Department of State's Reception and Placement program.

However, benefits for coverage of immediate healthcare needs upon arrival (including the TB screening for the U4U program) will depend upon when the Ukrainian applies for refugee medical assistance/Medicaid, if the state offers retroactive coverage, and if the provider can bill Medicaid.

Ukrainian newcomers eligible for ORR benefits should receive a domestic medical screening in accordance with the [CDC Domestic Medical Screening Guidance](#). Of note, newcomers arriving through the U4U program must meet medical requirements of their parole. These requirements, which include the vaccine and TB screening attestation, supersede the Domestic Screening Guidance.

Ukrainian newcomers aged 18 years and younger may be eligible for vaccines at no cost provided through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Questions about vaccines available for Ukrainians should be referred to your local/state immunization program.

- [VFC: Vaccines for Children Program | CDC](#)
- [State Health Department Immunization Websites, Coordinators, and Mandates \(immunize.org\)](#)

## ***Tuberculosis***

Clinicians should maintain a high index of suspicion for TB disease in those arriving from Ukraine presenting with a positive [interferon gamma release assay \(IGRA\)](#) or with symptoms of TB. TB among Ukrainians has a higher background rate of drug resistance than typically seen in the United States. When Ukrainians are being examined for possible TB disease, microbiological testing should include rapid molecular methods for detecting drug resistance and treatment recommendations in conjunction with the local TB control program.

For additional information pertaining to TB and the U4U program, please refer to the following ‘Dear Colleague’ Letters:

- [Uniting for Ukraine Program](#) (June 21, 2022)
- [Uniting for Ukraine—Drug Resistance Background and Recommendations](#) (August 1, 2022)

## ***Mental Health Issues***

There are growing mental health needs among those displaced from Ukraine. Long-term socio-political instability, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the current war has had detrimental impacts upon the personal, professional, and social lives of Ukrainians. As the conflict continues, Ukrainians could continue to face severe mental health trauma, depression, and anxiety. Those with existing mental health disorders, as well as intellectual, cognitive, or psychosocial disabilities are particularly vulnerable, because health and social services are limited, and families and community members may not be able to provide the same level of support during periods of conflict.

It is important that domestic partners be aware of the mental health needs of Ukrainian newcomers.

## ***Additional Resources***

- General Resources
  - [White House Fact Sheet](#)
  - [Uniting for Ukraine Program, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services](#)
  - Office of Refugee Resettlement [Fact Sheet](#) on Benefits for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees
  - [CDC Resources in Languages Other than English](#)
  - [Communication Toolkit | Immigrant and Refugee Health | CDC](#)
  - [Ukrainian Clinical Guidance, Center for Excellence in Newcomer Health](#)
  - [COVID-19 Resources for Ukrainian New Arrivals | National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants \(NRC-RIM\)](#)
  - [European Center for Disease Control](#)
- Tuberculosis
  - [Latent TB Infection Resources, CDC](#)
  - [Latent TB Infection Testing + Treatment, Summary of U.S. Recommendations \(CDC\)](#)
  - [Centers of Excellence TB Training and Education Products](#), including translated medication trackers and patient brochures
  - [The Find TB Resources](#) also provides a searchable database of TB educational materials in many languages, including Ukrainian and Russian.
  - Informational materials for patients and their families
    - [TB: General Information](#) fact sheet – [Ukrainian PDF](#)
    - [Q&A about TB](#) patient pamphlet – [Ukrainian PDF](#)
- Measles
  - CDC: Measles and the Vaccine that Prevents It [English](#) [Ukrainian](#)
  - CDC: Measles: More than just a little rash infographic [English](#) [Ukrainian](#)
- Mental Health
  - [International Trauma Consortium: Mental Health Resources for Clinicians and Researchers](#)
  - **[Psychological First Aid Webinar](#)** facilitated by Andrew Kritovich, LMHC (Ukrainian Community Center) and Beth Farmer, LCSW (International Rescue Committee)
    - Webinar Recording: <https://bit.ly/3D0QBk5>
    - Webinar Slides: <https://bit.ly/34LeAH4>

- Webinar Resources: <https://bit.ly/3ihq5sM>
- [National Child Traumatic Stress Network \(NCTSN\) Resources](#)  
NCTSN is a unique network of frontline providers, family members, researchers, and national partners committed to changing the course of children’s lives by improving their care. Many resources are available at their website, including tips for parents, educational materials surrounding trauma, and resources translated into Ukrainian and Russian.
- **Vaccinations**
  - [Vaccine Information Statements](#)
  - [Fostering COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence in Russian and Ukrainian Speaking Communities](#)  
This free continuing education e-course is designed to help healthcare providers who work with Russian- and Ukrainian-speaking patients to better understand vaccine hesitancy within these communities.
  - Plain Talk About Childhood Immunizations  
50-page booklet provides parents with accurate information about immunizations and the diseases they prevent, benefits and risks and vaccine safety and effectiveness. [English](#) [Ukrainian](#) [Russian](#)

The situation in Ukraine continues to evolve and CDC will update partners as more information becomes available.

Sincerely,

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