

## Ukrainian Refugees Arriving in Pennsylvania

<b>DATE:</b>	8/18/2022
<b>TO:</b>	Health Alert Network
<b>FROM:</b>	Denise Johnson, MD, FACOG, FACHE, Physician General, Acting Secretary of Health
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Ukrainian Refugees Arriving in Pennsylvania</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b>	Statewide
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Statewide
<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>	Statewide
<b>COUNTY:</b>	Statewide
<b>MUNICIPALITY:</b>	Statewide
<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	Statewide

**This transmission is a “Health Advisory” provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.**

**HOSPITALS:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL; **EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE **LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP; **LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, INFECTION CONTROL, AND NURSING STAFF IN YOUR FACILITY

### Summary

As of August 1, 2022, individuals in Pennsylvania submitted nearly 6,000 applications to sponsor Ukrainian Refugees

- Ukrainian refugees need both immediate and ongoing health care.
- Immediate needs (within 90 days of arrival) include IGRA tuberculosis testing and vaccinations (Polio and COVID-19).
- Ongoing needs include primary care and preventive screenings.
- Ukrainians with humanitarian parole are eligible for Medicaid.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is supporting the arrival of displaced Ukrainians, working closely with partners in federal, state, and local government; non-governmental organizations; and the private sector. Ukrainian newcomers may be admitted to the United States on several different categories, including humanitarian parole through the Uniting for Ukraine program, or may have refugee status. This notification is to raise awareness of certain potentially common, communicable diseases that may be present among Ukrainian newcomers seeking care at domestic health facilities, and to provide resources to clinicians and others working with Ukrainian newcomers.

It is not intended to provide comprehensive domestic medical screening recommendations for newcomers from Ukraine. Ukrainian refugees, who are eligible for Office of Refugee Resettlement benefits, should receive a domestic medical screening as outlined in CDC Domestic Medical Screening Guidance. [Guidance for the U.S. Domestic Medical Examination for Newly Arriving Refugees | Immigrant and Refugee Health | CDC](#)

**Eligibility for Benefits:** On May 21, 2022, Congress approved \$900 million to support Ukrainian refugees who arrive between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefits, including Medicaid.

For more information visit ORR's website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees>

### **Immediate Health Needs**

**Tuberculosis Screening:** The Ukrainian parolees must meet health requirements under DHS rules that were developed in consultation with the CDC. The applicants for parole are instructed to seek medical care and to record the completion of health requirements for vaccinations and tuberculosis testing by submitting a Uniting for Ukraine Vaccine Attestation Form, Uniting for Ukraine Vaccine Attestation | USCIS. The requirement for tuberculosis testing with an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) must be met within 90 days of entry.

**Vaccines:** Ukrainians who seek authorization to travel to the United States via the *Uniting for Ukraine* process will need to confirm prior vaccination against measles, polio, and COVID-19. If not previously vaccinated, individuals will need to receive a first dose of required vaccines prior to obtaining authorization to travel to the United States. These requirements may be adjusted in accordance with evolving public health needs; the most up-to-date requirements will be available at [www.dhs.gov/ukraine](http://www.dhs.gov/ukraine)

### **Ongoing Health Needs**

**Medical Screening:** CDC developed domestic and overseas medical screening guidance for healthcare providers who may see refugees during the resettlement process. This guidance can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/guidelines/refugee-guidelines.html>.

It is based on current medical knowledge and the advice of experts in refugee health. The guidance is a recommendation, not a mandate.

Medical screening best practice aims to:

- Promote and improve refugee health
- Prevent disease
- Address chronic disease
- Provide prescriptions for medication
- Familiarize refugees with the US healthcare system

### **Additional Information**

Physicians needing additional information are asked to call the following numbers:

For Tuberculosis questions:  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Bureau of Communicable Diseases  
Division of TB/STD  
TB Program  
(717) 787-6267

For Vaccination questions:  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Bureau of Communicable Diseases  
Division of Immunizations  
(717) 787-5681

**8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M**

Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of August 18,2022 but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.