



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Expanded TB Screening for Humanitarian Parolees

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IGRAs: Blood Tests for Tuberculosis (TB) Infection

- IGRAs – Interferon Gamma Release Assays or “TB blood tests”
- Like TB skin tests, IGRAs are screening tests for TB infection, not disease
- Also like TB skin tests, IGRAs usually remain positive for life
- Two commercially available tests:
 - Quantiferon-TB Gold Plus (QFT)
 - T-Spot.TB Test
- Required by USCIS (US Citizenship and Immigration Services) to be used in place of the TB skin test to satisfy TB screening requirements

Updates

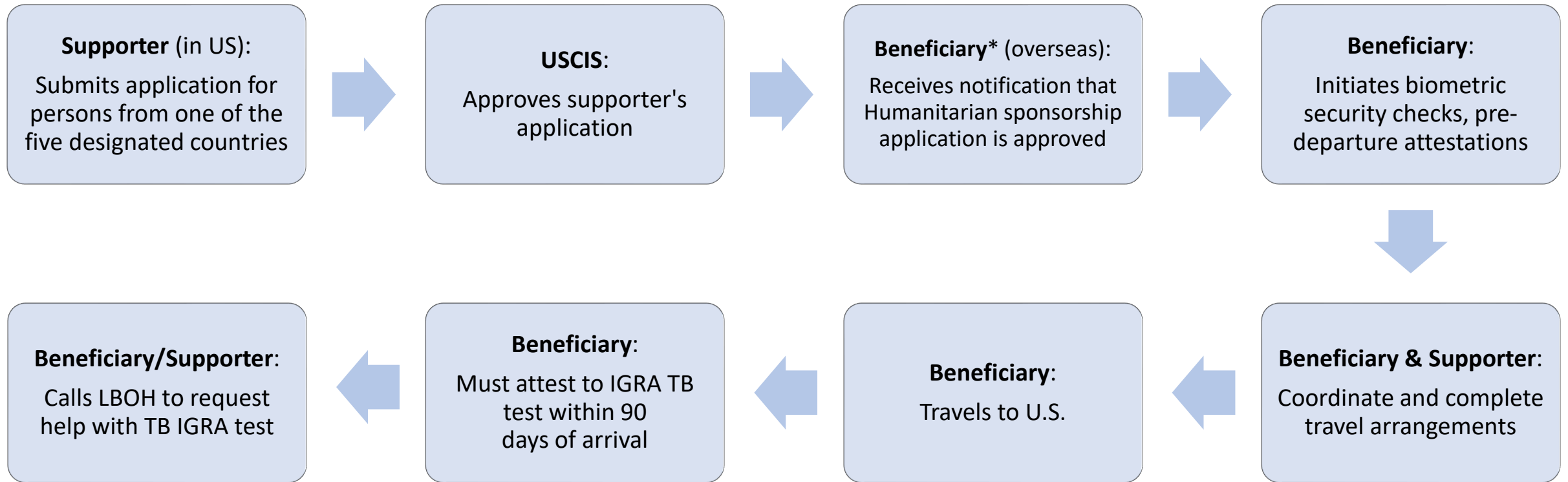
- As of 10/1/23, funding to support IGRA access in MA for Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) arrivals ended.
 - Our Division was able to test 174 arrivals
 - From 49 different MA communities
 - U4U arrivals are expected to meet USCIS attestation for IGRA testing within 90 days of arrival.
- As of 1/5/23, Humanitarian parole pathways opened for persons from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, & Venezuela
 - Must meet USCIS attestation requirement for an IGRA test within 90 days & appropriate follow-up.



New Opportunity

- ELCK-5 Grant
 - Through short term funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), DPH aims to improve access to Tuberculosis services for Humanitarian Parolees
 - Estimate covering the cost of 500-600 IGRA tests via Quest Diagnostics
- Who Qualifies?
 - Humanitarian Parolees from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, Venezuela, & Ukraine
 - Not needed for children under the age of 2

The Process



Local Boards of Health's Role

1. Complete the DPH Humanitarian *Parolee: Request for IGRA Test* form
2. Fax form to DPH/Division of Global Populations at 617-887-8791.
 - a. DPH will create MAVEN-TB event(s).
3. Download the Quest lab order from the MAVEN event(s).
4. Provide education about TB test and identify nearby Quest Patient Centers.
 - a. DPH will notify LBOH when IGRA TB test results are available in MAVEN.
5. Provide TB IGRA test results verbally within 5 days of results being available. Mail a paper copy of the lab report together with a result letter to resident.

Resulting

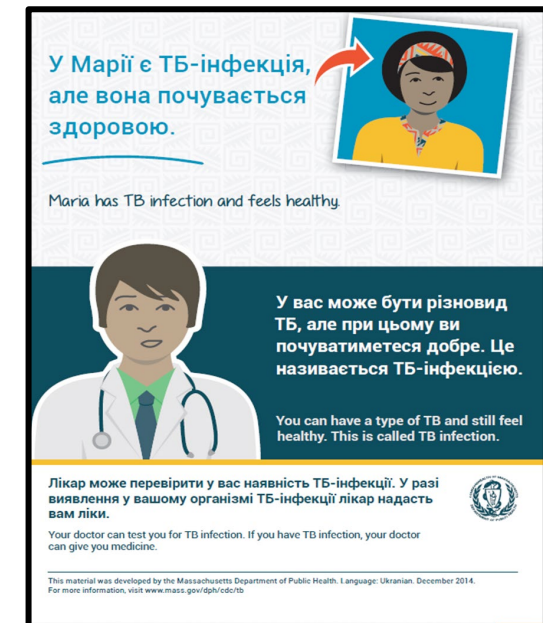
- If the IGRA result is **NEGATIVE**:
 - Provide brief education and information about TB.
 - No additional follow-up is needed.
- If the IGRA result is **POSITIVE**:
 - Initiate referral to the nearest TB clinic.
 - Provide education and information about TB and the importance of keeping their TB clinic appointment.
 - Continue to follow-up if person initiates treatment for TB Infection or Disease
- If the IGRA result is **INDETERMINATE**:
 - Consult with DPH, individual may require repeat testing.

- ❖ Resulting letter templates will be available on MAVEN Help
- ❖ Remind resident to submit their attestation for IGRA TB test results through their own USCIS online portal.

Resources

- Please reference the USCIS websites for in depth descriptions on how humanitarian parole is granted for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, Venezuelans, and Ukrainians (U4U) and subsequent public health attestation requirements.
- <https://www.uscis.gov/CHNV>
- <https://www.uscis.gov/ukraine>
- [Welcome.us](https://www.welcome.us)

With any further questions, please call the Division of Global Populations (DGP) directly at **617-983-6970**





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Thank You!

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