WELCOMING NEW ARRIVALS FROM UKRAINE: MEETING TB SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

October 13, 2022

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Welcome!

• All participants will be muted to start today’s meeting.
• There will be time for Q&A after the short presentation.
  • Please raise a Zoom hand, and then unmute to ask your question.
• Please use the chat box to post questions and comments
  • Bottom row of your Zoom window.
• This meeting will be recorded and posted.
• Slides and additional resources, education materials will be posted.
Goals, objectives

• Introduce the Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) program for Ukrainian nationals to come to the U.S. temporarily.

• Present the U4U vaccine and TB IGRA testing attestation requirements.

• Describe processes for linking Ukrainian arrivals to IGRA testing, and other Refugee services and benefits.

• Describe opportunities for Local Boards of Health.

• Question & Answer, Discussion.
Uniting for Ukraine (U4U)

- President Biden announced the U.S. would allow ~100,000 Ukrainians to come to the US, rapidly.
  - Needed more than existing Refugee arrivals pathways

- As of 4/25/22, U4U provides a pathway for people fleeing Russia’s invasion.
  - Temporary, two-year period of humanitarian parole
A look at some national numbers

As of September 23, 2022, there have been:

- **133,711** U4U supporter applications filed
- **94,306** U4U beneficiaries approved for travel
- **58,356** U4U arrivals paroled into the U.S.

Over 2,000 supporter applications filed reporting an address in Massachusetts.
Pathway to the U.S. through the U4U program

**Beneficiary** (in US):
- Submits U4U application for persons who are fleeing or fled Ukraine

**USCIS**:
- Approves supporter's U4U application

**Beneficiary**
- Receives notification that U4U application is approved

**Beneficiary** (overseas):
- Initiates biometric security checks, pre-departure attestations

**Beneficiary**
- Receives notification that U4U application is approved

**Beneficiary** and **Supporter**
- Coordinate and complete travel arrangements

**Beneficiary**
- Travels to U.S.

**Beneficiary**
- Initiates biometric security checks, pre-departure attestations

**Beneficiary/Supporter**
- Calls LBOH to request help with TB IGRA test

**Beneficiary**
- Must attest to IGRA TB test within 90 days of arrival

*Beneficiary: Individuals who resided in Ukraine immediately before the Russian invasion (through Feb. 11, 2022) and were displaced as a result of the invasion, are Ukrainian citizens, or are an immediate family member of a citizen beneficiary.*
Vaccine, TB IGRA testing attestations

• Pre-departure, U4U beneficiaries attest to the following vaccine requirements.
  • Measles
  • Polio
  • First dose of an FDA approved COVID-19 vaccine or a WHO-Emergency use listed COVID-19 vaccine

• Upon arrival to US, individuals 2 years of age or older will need to complete a medical screening for tuberculosis, including an Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) test, within 90 days.

USCIS U4U attestation form: https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine/uniting-for-ukraine-vaccine-attestation
The public health perspective

• WHO 2020 estimates incidence of active TB in Ukraine to be 73/100,000 (MA = 2/100,000 in 2020).
  • Multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB among Ukrainians who had culture-confirmed TB is notable.
  • Anticipated population among U4U beneficiaries is not representative of country demographics.

• Consequences of sudden, unexpected displacement
  • Interruptions in health care, missed diagnosis, missed opportunities for preventive treatment

• DPH is committed to offering support, linking patients to needed TB care.

1. https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb_profiles/?_inputs_&_entity_type=%22country%22&lan=%22EN%22&iso2=%22UA%22
Poll questions #1

Have you or your office received any phone calls from Ukrainians in your community asking about TB testing?

a) Yes.

b) No.

c) I’m not sure.

d) Not applicable, I am not a LBOH.
How do Ukrainians access IGRAs?

- **Option 1** (at no cost to new arrival): DPH can now reimburse for IGRAs for Ukrainians at Quest Patient Service Centers

- **Option 2** (at no cost to new arrival): IGRA is provided as part of Refugee Health Assessment Program (RHAP).
  - RHAP referral must be initiated by a case manager at a refugee resettlement agency

- **Option 3** ($): self pay or use insurance at their own provider
What if a U4U beneficiary calls the LBOH?

• If resident wants an IGRA, fill out an intake form and fax it to DPH (617-887-8791) to request a Quest lab order.
  • Assure resident they should not be charged for IGRA test.
  • If resident receives bill in error, contact DPH.
  • Alternatively, resident can call DPH directly (617-983-6970) to request a Quest lab order.

• Provide contact info for a refugee resettlement agency.
  • They may qualify for other refugee and mainstream benefits in addition to the health assessment.
U4U Beneficiary Intake Form: Request for IGRA test

First page

United for Ukraine (U4U) Beneficiary Intake Form: Request for IGRA Test
To: MA Department of Public Health, Division of Global Populations and Infectious Disease Prevention
Fax: 617-887-8791, Attn: Epi of the Day

From:
Name
Name of Agency or Board of Health
Phone number
Fax number

Part 1: Please fill out the gray sections once for each Ukrainian parolee family arriving since May 2022.

Number in Family:
Date of arrival in US (MM/DD/YYYY):
Departure country (prior to US arrival):

U4U Supporter name:
U4U beneficiary’s first and last name (head of household):
Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY):
Preferred address:
Preferred language:

U4U beneficiary requested a Quest lab order for an IGRA test for TB infection. (Yes/No)
U4U beneficiary is interested additional services and benefits, including a refugee health assessment appointment. (Yes/No)

If yes, is the U4U beneficiary linked to a resettlement agency? (Yes/No)

LBOH specific section:

Second page, if necessary

Part 2: Please complete this table if there are more than 1 members of the family arriving at the same time. Complete the address and contact information for the family and sponsor on page 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Middle Name or Initial</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>Date of Birth DD/MM/YYYY</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Alien # if available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

This section is for Local Boards of Health ONLY:
The Epi of the Day at the Division of Global Populations and Infectious Disease Prevention (DGP) will create a Quest lab order. Preferred method for receiving Quest lab order:
☐ fax
☐ MAVEN link
☐ other:

Results reporting:
1) (an additional nurse at my board of health) will be available to call the client with the test result within five business days of receiving the result and provide printed lab results for the individual’s record. (Yes/No)
Poll question #2

Do you know how to refer a person to state supported TB outpatient services clinic?

a) Yes, I do it all the time.
b) Yes, but it’s not something I do often.
c) No.
Process of resulting

• Results available in MAVEN in about a week, DPH will notify LBOH
  • Once available, results must be provided to resident within 5 business days.
  • Use of DPH template resulting letters
  • Remind resident that they must still complete online attestation through USCIS website

• Will you be able to provide results to U4U beneficiaries in your community by phone and mail?

• Will you be able to fax a referral to TB clinic if IGRA is positive?
  • Call DPH for support 617-983-6970.
TB Resources

• LTBI materials in Ukrainian, Russian, and other languages:
  • https://www.mass.gov/lists/tb-information-for-your-patients-in-english-and-other-languages

• MAVEN Help page
  • http://www.maven-help.maventrainingsite.com/
  • Global Populations → Presentations, Tip Sheets

• USCIS attestation page
  • https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine/uniting-for-ukraine-vaccine-attestation
1. Welcome.Us: National website for U4U supporters, sponsors
   • https://ukraine.welcome.us/resources

2. Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) fact sheet on benefits, services for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees
   • https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees

3. Welcoming Newcomer and Refugee Students and Families, memo DESE commissioner

4. Switchboard: Online resource hub for refugee resettlement providers
   • https://switchboardta.org/
   • https://switchboardta.org/blog/resource-list-serving-ukrainian-newcomers/?mc_cid=97644a17e7&mc_eid=c5c10684a4
U4U program, arrival process

TB, IGRA testing, resulting, TB evaluation, referral

LBOH opportunities, feasibility
Thank you!

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