



# Brief Overview for Clinicians Caring for Ukrainian New Arrivals

## Context

The United States government has shared [Fact Sheet: DHS Efforts to Assist Ukrainian Nationals](https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/03/31/fact-sheet-dhs-efforts-assist-ukrainian-nationals) ([www.dhs.gov/news/2022/03/31/fact-sheet-dhs-efforts-assist-ukrainian-nationals](https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/03/31/fact-sheet-dhs-efforts-assist-ukrainian-nationals)), which includes information regarding Temporary Protected Status, the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, Humanitarian Parole, and others. Ukrainians may arrive in local communities with different immigration statuses and, due to this, will have different pre-departure health requirements and benefit eligibility post-arrival.

**Table 1: Immigration status, immigration health requirements and eligibility**

Immigration status	Program overview	Immigration health requirements	Eligible for benefits and services funded by Office of Refugee Resettlement
Humanitarian Parole via Uniting for Ukraine <sup>1</sup>	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 Uniting for Ukraine 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. To be eligible, Ukrainians must have been residents in Ukraine as of February 11, 2022, have a supporter in the U.S., attest to having received selected vaccinations and other public health requirements, and pass rigorous biometric and biographic screening and vetting security checks. Information on how to attest using the myUSCIS <sup>2</sup> account is detailed on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) site.	Yes, refer to USCIS: Uniting for Ukraine <sup>1</sup> and DHS: Uniting for Ukraine <sup>3</sup>	Maybe, refer to Office of Refugee Resettlement Benefits for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees <sup>4</sup>
Humanitarian Parole via independent travel <sup>5</sup>	Individuals may request parole for themselves or on behalf of another individual who is outside the United States based on urgent humanitarian or significant public benefit reasons. Parole allows an individual to temporarily enter the United States and apply for employment authorization, but it does not confer immigration status or provide a path to lawful immigration status. Parole is discretionary and issued on a case-by-case basis. Individuals from Ukraine who were paroled into the U.S. outside of the Uniting for Ukraine program do not have vaccination or other public health requirements as conditions of parole.	No	Maybe, refer to Office of Refugee Resettlement Benefits for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees <sup>4</sup>
U.S. Refugee Admissions Program	The Department of State will expand U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) operations in Europe to provide eligible Ukrainians with greater access to refugee resettlement processing under the Lautenberg Program <sup>6</sup> , while also expanding referral mechanisms for Ukrainians and others fleeing Russia's war in Ukraine who need permanent resettlement.	Yes, refer to CDC Technical Instructions <sup>7</sup>	Yes, Office of Refugee Resettlement <sup>8</sup>

Immigration status	Program overview	Immigration health requirements	Eligible for benefits and services funded by Office of Refugee Resettlement
Temporary Protection Status (TPS) <sup>9</sup>	TPS allows Ukrainians already present in the United States and who meet USCIS requirements to remain in the United States on a temporary basis.	No	No
Immigrant <sup>10</sup>	Additional pathways may include immigrant visas based on family ties, employment, and other visa types.	Yes, refer to CDC Technical Instructions <sup>7</sup>	No

<sup>1</sup>[Uniting for Ukraine \(www.uscis.gov/ukraine\)](http://www.uscis.gov/ukraine)

<sup>2</sup>[myUSCIS \(my.uscis.gov/\)](http://my.uscis.gov/)

<sup>3</sup>[DHS: Uniting for Ukraine \(www.dhs.gov/ukraine\)](http://www.dhs.gov/ukraine)

<sup>4</sup>[Office of Refugee Resettlement Benefits for Ukrainian Humanitarian Parolees \(www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees\)](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees)

<sup>5</sup>[Humanitarian Parole \(www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/humanitarianpublicbenefitparoleindividualsoutsideUS\)](http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/humanitarianpublicbenefitparoleindividualsoutsideUS)

<sup>6</sup>[Welcoming Ukrainian Nationals to the United States \(www.state.gov/welcoming-ukrainian-nationals-to-the-united-states/\)](http://www.state.gov/welcoming-ukrainian-nationals-to-the-united-states/)

<sup>7</sup>[CDC: Technical Instructions for Panel Physicians \(www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/panel-physicians.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/panel-physicians.html)

<sup>8</sup>[Office of Refugee Resettlement: Resettlement Services \(www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees\)](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/programs/refugees)

<sup>9</sup>[USCIS: Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: Ukraine \(www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/TPS-Ukraine\)](http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status/TPS-Ukraine)

<sup>10</sup>[U.S. Department of State: Immigrate \(travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate.html\)](http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate.html)

## Cultural considerations

- Proper use of a medical interpreter is essential. Preferred languages include Ukrainian or, less commonly, Russian. Many Ukrainians speak Russian as their native language. However, the Russian language can also be triggering for some Ukrainians. Take the time to learn from your local Ukrainian community before distributing materials in Russian.
- [Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center Cultural Quick Reference Guide: Ukraine \(sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/home/index#/products/168\)](http://sntc.medicine.ufl.edu/home/index#/products/168)

## Prior and post-arrival health screenings

Pre-arrival health screening requirements vary by visa pathway.

- **Humanitarian Parole (Uniting for Ukraine):**

**Prior to U.S. entry**, all individuals arriving through the Uniting for Ukraine program must attest to having received:

- (1) At least one dose of measles vaccine or exception due to age, availability, or contraindication
- (2) At least one dose of polio vaccine or exception due to age, availability, or contraindication
- (3) At least one dose of an FDA approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine or COVID-19 vaccine with WHO emergency use listing or exception due to age, availability, or contraindication

If unable to be vaccinated overseas due to availability or the vaccine not being approved or licensed for use in an age group, individuals must get vaccinated against polio within 14 days of arrival or receive the COVID-19 or measles vaccine within 90 days of arrival in the U.S.

**Within 90 days after U.S. arrival**, all individuals arriving through the Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) program will attest to having undergone a tuberculosis (TB) screening starting with an IGRA (interferon-gamma release assay) blood test if aged 2 years or older.

- **Humanitarian Parole (independent travel):** No immigration medical requirements.
- **U.S. Refugee Admissions Program:** Prior to U.S. arrival and through a planned migration process, refugees receive a medical screening for diseases of public health concern (e.g., tuberculosis and syphilis), have other acute health issues identified and treated, and are eligible for certain vaccinations.
- **Temporary Protection Status:** No immigration medical requirements.
- **Immigrant:** Refer to the USCIS medical requirements for immigrants.

## Potential health conditions

**Tuberculosis (TB):** Ukraine has intermediate prevalence of TB and high-burden of rifampicin-resistant and multidrug-resistant TB (RR/MDR TB).<sup>a,b</sup> According to a recent WHO report, TB patients in parts of Eastern Europe, including Ukraine and Central Asia, are now ten times more likely to have MDR-TB than those in the rest of the world. Per [CDC: Guidance for Tuberculosis Infection and Disease during the Domestic Medical Examination for Newly Arrived Refugees](https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/guidelines/domestic/tuberculosis-guidelines.html) ([www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/guidelines/domestic/tuberculosis-guidelines.html](https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/guidelines/domestic/tuberculosis-guidelines.html)), **all arrivals from countries with intermediate prevalence of TB (including Ukraine) should be tested for TB with IGRA (>2 years of age) or TST (<2 years of age).**<sup>b</sup> Of note, if live viral vaccines (e.g., MMR, varicella, rotavirus, oral polio) are administered to arrivals *before* TB testing (<4 weeks from vaccine administration to time of TB testing), these vaccines may interfere with interpretation of both the IGRA and Tuberculin Skin Testing (TST); these vaccines may cause anergy. Ideally, TB testing may occur prior to or at the same time as live viral vaccination administration. If live viral vaccines were administered prior to TB testing, it is recommended to wait at least 4 weeks before screening for TB with IGRA or TST.

If there are concerns for active TB (e.g., cough, fever of unknown origin, weight loss, failure to thrive, night sweats, hemoptysis), test for TB and immediately consult with your local public health department and TB experts, irrespective of TB testing results and timing of live viral vaccine administration.

**Vaccine-preventable diseases (VPD):** VPDs including pertussis, measles, chickenpox, diphtheria, varicella, hepatitis A, and paralytic polio, should be considered. Vaccination coverage in Ukraine is among the lowest in the World Health Organization (WHO) European Region and is at or below the target threshold for BCG, DTP3, Pol3, MCV, and HepB3. Of note, vaccine hesitancy is a major concern in Ukraine, and poses a challenge in meeting the thresholds for immunization.

There is increased risk for diarrheal disease in children as the rotavirus vaccine not included in the routine vaccination schedule. Providers should maintain vigilance for vaccine preventable disease in patients with compatible symptoms and those ineligible for vaccination due to age (e.g., measles in infants <6 months) or other contraindications (e.g., measles in pregnant women). Vaccination coverage varies greatly by region within Ukraine, which experienced notable measles and polio outbreaks in 2019 and 2021, respectively.<sup>c</sup>

**Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection:** HBV and HCV infections are key public health issues in Ukraine. Among adults, the prevalence of hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) was estimated in 2020 at 1% and hepatitis C (HCV-RNA positive) infection at 3%, with prevalence being higher in men and in older ages. Prevalence was also higher among risk groups such as people who inject drugs (PWIDs) (HBsAg 8.5% and anti-HCV 56.3%) and people living with HIV.<sup>d</sup>

**HIV:** Over 250,000 Ukrainian people are living with HIV with a 0.1% prevalence in 2020 among both males and females 15-24 years of age and 200 newly infected children ages 0-14 years. Among adults in Ukraine, a history of intravenous drug use is a major risk factor for HIV infection.<sup>e,f,g,h</sup>

**Top 10 Causes of Death (2019 data):** Ischemic heart disease, stroke, cirrhosis, lung cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, cardiomyopathy, colorectal cancer, self-harm, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, stomach cancer.<sup>c,i</sup>

**Highest risk factors for death and disability (2019 data):** High blood pressure, dietary risks, tobacco, high LDL, high body-mass index (BMI), alcohol use, high fasting plasma glucose, air pollution, kidney dysfunction.<sup>i</sup>

**Tobacco, alcohol, and drug use:** In 2017, a Ukrainian national survey found that 40% of men and 9% of women were current smokers, the majority of whom smoked tobacco daily. In teenagers, approximately 50% had smoked cigarettes, 86% had used alcohol, and 18% had reported using illicit drugs. Recent data reports that males consume an average of 14 liters of alcohol per year compared to 3.65 liter per year for females.<sup>j,k,l</sup>

## Health insurance benefits and access to care

Refugees who come to the U.S. via the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) are eligible for Medicaid for up to 12 months from date of eligibility, with subsequent coverage varying by state. Information is available at [Office of Refugee Resettlement: Expansion of the Refugee Assistance and Refugee Medical Assistance Eligibility Period \(www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/ORR-DCL-22-12-Expansion-of-RCA-and-RMA-Eligibility-Period.pdf\)](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/ORR-DCL-22-12-Expansion-of-RCA-and-RMA-Eligibility-Period.pdf) and [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: Health Coverage Options for Certain Ukrainian Nationals \(www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/eligibility/downloads/hlth-cov-opt-fr-cer-ukrainian-natnls.pdf\)](https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/eligibility/downloads/hlth-cov-opt-fr-cer-ukrainian-natnls.pdf).

Similar to refugees, Ukrainians who have been granted humanitarian parole may be eligible for federal “mainstream” (non-ORR funded) benefits, such as health insurance through Medicaid, cash assistance through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and food assistance through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). They may also be eligible for cash assistance, medical assistance, employment preparation, job placement, English language training, and other services offered through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). More information is available at [Office of Refugee Resettlement: Benefits for Ukrainians Humanitarian Parolees \(www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees\)](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees). Through the Uniting for Ukraine humanitarian parole program, sponsors commit to “Ensuring that the beneficiary’s health care and medical needs are met for the duration of the parole.” Arrivals will likely seek health care services in community health centers, federally qualified health centers with sliding scale fee schedules, and other clinics with ties to established Ukrainian communities in the United States.

Adults with TPS or humanitarian parole are not typically eligible for federally-funded public health insurance (e.g., Medicaid). However, all lawfully present individuals may apply for insurance via state health insurance marketplaces. Arrivals may elect to purchase private health insurance through their state’s insurance Health Insurance Marketplace. More information is available at [HealthCare.gov: Coverage for lawfully present immigrants \(www.healthcare.gov/immigrants/lawfully-present-immigrants/\)](https://www.healthcare.gov/immigrants/lawfully-present-immigrants/).

Additionally, some states offer Medicaid or Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to all income-eligible lawfully residing children < 18 and pregnant women, regardless of immigration pathway. Visit these National Immigration Law Center resources for more information:

- [“Lawfully Residing” Children and Pregnant Women Eligible for Medicaid and CHIP \(www.nilc.org/issues/health-care/lawfully-residing-medicaid-chip/\)](https://www.nilc.org/issues/health-care/lawfully-residing-medicaid-chip/)
- [Health Coverage Maps \(www.nilc.org/issues/health-care/healthcoveragemaps/\)](https://www.nilc.org/issues/health-care/healthcoveragemaps/)

All Ukrainian arrivals in the categories above (Table 1) may apply for employment authorization and may subsequently, like other U.S. workers, receive coverage via employer-based health insurance.

We suggest that all Ukrainians nationals arriving through one of the pathways described in Table 1 apply for state benefits to determine Medicaid, CHIP, or Refugee Medical Assistance eligibility.

For more information and resources, visit [Ukrainian Clinical Guidance \(www.health.state.mn.us/communities/rih/about/ukrainian.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/rih/about/ukrainian.html).

**Lead Authors:** Jasmine Matheson, Janine Young, Blain Mamo, Katherine Yun, Ellen Frerich

Contributors include members of the Minnesota Department of Health Center of Excellence in Newcomer Health's Clinical Guidance Workgroup.

Minnesota Department of Health  
Center of Excellence in Newcomer Health  
PO Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
651-201-5414  
[health.refugee@state.mn.us](mailto:health.refugee@state.mn.us)  
[www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)

12/14/23

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414.

---

<sup>a</sup> World Health Organization: Tuberculosis Profile: Ukraine

[https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb\\_profiles/?inputs\\_entity\\_type=%22country%22&lan=%22EN%22&iso2=%22UA%22](https://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb_profiles/?inputs_entity_type=%22country%22&lan=%22EN%22&iso2=%22UA%22)

<sup>b</sup> European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and World Health Organization, Tuberculosis Surveillance and Monitoring in Europe 2021 <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/340210/9789289056656-eng.pdf>

<sup>c</sup> CDC in Ukraine <https://www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/countries/ukraine/default.htm>

<sup>d</sup> European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and World Health Organization, Joint Statement: Ensuring high-quality viral hepatitis care for refugees from Ukraine <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/WHO-ECDC-EASL-statement.pdf>

<sup>e</sup> UNAIDS warns that the war in Ukraine risks a humanitarian catastrophe for people living with and affected by HIV [https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2022/april/20220413\\_ukraine](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2022/april/20220413_ukraine)

<sup>f</sup> National Library of Medicine: HIV and risk environment for injecting drug users: the past, present, and future <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6464374/>

<sup>g</sup> The World Bank: Prevalence of HIV, male (% age 15-24) – Ukraine <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.HIV.1524.MA.ZS?locations=UA>

<sup>h</sup> The World Bank: Children (ages 0-14) newly infected with HIV – Ukraine <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.HIV.INCD.14?locations=UA>

<sup>i</sup> Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation - Ukraine <https://www.healthdata.org/ukraine>

<sup>j</sup> Global Health Observatory Data Repository (European Region): Most recent nationally representative survey reporting prevalence of tobacco use or smoking among adults, data by country (2017) <https://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.main-euro.TOB1249?lang=en>

<sup>k</sup> World Population Review: alcohol consumption by country, 2022 <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/alcohol-consumption-by-country>

<sup>l</sup> UNICEF: Smoking among Ukrainian teenagers decrease, though alcohol consumption, drug use, and social media addiction are increasing (2019) <https://www.unicef.org/ukraine/en/esp2019>