



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

May 18, 2022

Dear Colleague:

In response to the arrival of displaced Ukrainians to the United States, we are providing information to raise awareness of certain potentially common, communicable diseases that may be present among Ukrainian newcomers seeking care at domestic health facilities. This is not intended to provide comprehensive domestic medical screening recommendations for newcomers from Ukraine.

Ukrainian newcomers may be admitted to the United States on several different immigrant categories, which may or may not make them eligible for federally funded health services. At this time, the vast majority are expected to arrive with humanitarian parole, through the [Uniting for Ukraine](#) program. These individuals are not eligible for Office of Refugee Resettlement benefits, such as a domestic refugee health assessment.

Please be aware of the following clinical considerations:

1. 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.
 - a. **Measles** is endemic in Ukraine. **Ukrainian newcomers presenting in a clinical setting who are not fully immunized against measles should be counseled on and offered vaccination, in accordance with ACIP recommendations.** Domestic providers caring for Ukrainian newcomers should remain diligent about recognizing the signs and symptoms of measles in recently arrived individuals. MDH advises clinicians to report all patients who are suspected of having measles or meet the clinical criterion for measles IMMEDIATELY to their local health department.
 - b. Some children from Ukraine are un- or under-immunized against **poliovirus**. **Ukrainian newcomers who are not fully immunized against poliovirus should be counseled on and offered vaccination, in accordance with ACIP recommendations.** In addition, MDH advises clinicians to maintain vigilance for acute flaccid weakness or paralysis that might indicate a case of poliomyelitis due to poliovirus and send information about all patients that meet the clinical criterion for poliomyelitis (acute onset of flaccid paralysis of one or more limbs with decreased or absent tendon reflexes in the affected limbs, without other apparent cause) IMMEDIATELY to their local health department.
2. Ukraine has a high burden of **multidrug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis (TB)** with a TB incidence of 73 per 100,000. Clinicians should maintain a high index of suspicion for TB disease in those from Ukraine presenting with signs or symptoms of TB. Symptoms of TB disease can include cough lasting longer than 3 weeks, hemoptysis, chest pain, fever, chills, night sweats, weight loss, loss of appetite, weakness, or fatigue. However, many of those diagnosed with TB disease through screening are asymptomatic. Any person with possible or confirmed TB disease should be reported to your local health department. **Any individual ≥ 2 years of age admitted as part of the Uniting for Ukraine program should complete a medical screening for tuberculosis, including an IGRA test, within 2 weeks of arrival to the United States.**

Please note that many Ukrainians were displaced from their homes with very little warning. Therefore, many may arrive in the U.S. without prescription medications, eyeglasses, or other health aids that they rely on. Additionally, many will not have vaccination or other health records with them. Clinicians providing care to Ukrainian newcomers (regardless of visa class or refugee status) should be aware that many may require immediate referrals to chronic disease specialists, refills on prescription medications, and /or optometry services.

The following resources may be of interest to those assisting Ukrainian newcomers.

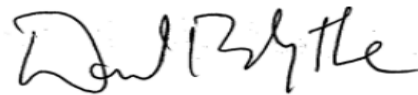
- [TB: General Information fact sheet – Ukrainian PDF](#)
- [Q&A about TB patient pamphlet – Ukrainian PDF](#)
- [Fostering COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence in Russian and Ukrainian Speaking Communities](#)
- Plain Talk about Childhood Immunizations—[English](#) [Ukrainian](#) [Russian](#)
- Age-related Reactions to Traumatic Events—[English](#) [Ukrainian](#) [Russian](#)
- After a Crisis: Helping Young Children Heal—[English](#) [Ukrainian](#) [Russian](#)

Thank you for your attention to this important public health alert. We will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,



Jinlene Chan, MD, MPH, FAAP
Deputy Secretary, Public Health Services



David Blythe, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist