

# TUBERCULOSIS (TB) SCREENING FOR PEOPLE ARRIVING FROM UKRAINE TO WISCONSIN



## BACKGROUND

On April 21, 2022, President Biden announced that the U.S. will welcome up to 100,000 Ukrainians and others fleeing from Russian aggression in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis. Most displaced persons will not be processed through the refugee resettlement program. Instead, they will participate in a new process called *Uniting for Ukraine* that launched on April 25, 2022. Participants need a U.S.-based supporter that has U.S. citizenship and can provide financial support. People approved through the program, referred to as humanitarian parolees, can stay in the U.S. for up to two years.

Because the Department of Homeland Security is not facilitating travel, **the Wisconsin Department of Health Services will not be able to provide local jurisdictions with information about humanitarian parolees.** While those applying to *Uniting for Ukraine* are asked to provide a limited amount of medical information before their application is approved, this information is not accessible to state health departments. Humanitarian parolees will not be asked to participate in the TB screening routinely completed for refugees before travel. Instead, those ages 2 and older will be asked to have an interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) blood test within 90 days of arrival to the U.S. They will be asked to attest to having had the test completed in the Uniting for Ukraine applicant portal. However, this information will not be accessible to state health departments.

## COMPONENTS OF RECOMMENDED TB SCREENING

The Wisconsin Tuberculosis Program and Refugee Health Program recommend the following TB screening components are completed for humanitarian parolees presenting to clinics or local health departments:

### ▶ Symptom screening for tuberculosis for individuals of all ages

- Persistent cough lasting more than 10 days **and** one or more of the following: Coughing up blood, fever, night sweats, unexplained weight loss, or fatigue
- Enlargement of lymph nodes, back pain, spinal deformity (gibbus deformity), unexplained joint pain, unexplained infertility, sterile pyuria, or abnormalities on imaging of urinary tract

### ▶ Medical history for past tuberculosis diagnosis or exposure

If the individuals report a history of past tuberculosis diagnosis or exposure, clinicians should ask questions to assess whether the person was treated for or exposed to multidrug resistant TB (MDR-TB). MDR-TB is resistant to the first-line medications rifampin and isoniazid. Treatment is typically prolonged (18 to 24 months) and/or with the use of injectable medications.

Suggested questions to use:

- Were you or the person you were exposed to treated for TB for more than 12 months?
- Did the tuberculosis treatment include injectable medications?



### ▶ IGRA blood test for persons aged 2 years and older

### ▶ Chest radiographs for persons aged 6 months and older

- PA view for those 10 years of age and older
- AP or PA view AND lateral view for those younger than 10 years of age

### ▶ Medical examination for persons with positive IGRAs, abnormal chest radiographs consistent with tuberculosis, or positive symptom screening

### ▶ Respiratory sampling if indicated by the chest radiograph, medical examination, or symptom screening



## TB REPORTING

Both confirmed and suspected cases of active tuberculosis are category I conditions, reportable immediately to the patient's local public health officer. Both confirmed and suspected latent tuberculosis infection are category II conditions, reportable to the patient's local public health department within 72 hours of recognition of a case or a suspected case. Please see the [Wisconsin Tuberculosis Program webpage](#) on reporting for more information.



## FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR SCREENING

Humanitarian parolees participating in the *Uniting for Ukraine* program may qualify for Medicaid without a 5-year waiting period under their humanitarian parolee status if they meet all other program rules. Those presenting to clinics or health departments seeking medical services should be encouraged to apply for Wisconsin Medicaid by contacting the [Income Maintenance Consortium](#) office in their region or apply online through the [ACCESS online application portal](#). Humanitarian parolees who qualify may have Medicaid coverage backdated to May 21, 2022.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- ▶ For more information on medical screening, please see:
  - [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Immigrant, Refugee, and Migrant Health](#)
  - [Minnesota Center of Excellence in Newcomer Health](#)
  - [Wisconsin Refugee Health Program](#)
- ▶ [Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care](#): Find talks, learning modules, and manuals on trauma-informed care.
- ▶ [Psychological First Aid](#): See a Switchboard webinar on psychological first aid in the context of the events in Ukraine, including the basics of psychological first aid and cultural information on Ukraine facilitated by individuals from the Ukrainian Community Center and the International Rescue Committee.
- ▶ Access translated resources by the [Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center](#):
  - Cultural Quick Reference Guide: Ukraine
  - You Can Prevent Tuberculosis: A Patient Educational Handout
  - 12-Dose Regimen for LTBI Patient Educational Brochure
  - 12-Dose Regimen for Latent TB Infection Medication Tracker and Symptom Checklist
- ▶ Translated Resources by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health:
  - How to Take Your TB Medicine: [English](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Russian](#)
  - Keep Taking Your TB Medicine: [English](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Russian](#)
  - You Can Have TB and Feel Healthy: [English](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Russian](#)
  - You Have TB Infection (A Type of TB): [English](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Russian](#)

## HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT US.

Contact the Wisconsin Tuberculosis and Refugee Health programs by phone at 608-266-6319 or by email at [DHSWITBProgram@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSWITBProgram@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

