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Ukrainian Parolees Tuberculosis Update

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October 3, 2022

DISCLAIMER

The information presented today is based current preliminary data and on CDC's recent guidance. Information is subject to change.

October 03, 2022

Uniting for Ukraine (U4U)



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- Established April 21, 2022, by the Department of Homeland Security.
- Pathway for Ukrainian citizens and their immediate family members to come to the U.S. and stay temporarily in a two-year period of parole.
- The Program requires proof of tuberculosis (TB) screening (an “attestation”) within 90 days of arrival in the U.S.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention awarded \$8 million to 64 grantees to support TB services for U4U parolees.
 - Texas received \$411,514.



<https://www.uscis.gov/ukraine>

Federal Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Requirements



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Attestation for TB Screening

- Ukrainians ≥ 2 years must have a TB screening test performed within 90 days of arrival in the U.S.
- Children < 2 years old are exempt for TB screening under the federal requirements.
- The Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) is the required screening test.



TB Burden in Ukraine

- Ukraine has a much higher incidence of TB compared to the United States
- TB incidence rate in 2019
 - Ukraine, 65 per 100,000^a
 - United States, 2.7 per 100,000^b
- Ukraine is one of the 10 countries globally with the highest burden of multidrug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)^a
 - 27% MDR-TB among new cases in 2019



^a Available <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Operational-considerations-Russia-aggression-towards-Ukraine-final.pdf>

^b Available <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/statistics/tbcases.htm>, accessed October 2, 2022

U4U Federal Funding for Texas



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- Total Award: \$411,514
- Project period: 9/1/2022 – 12/31/2022
with extension through 9/30/2023
- Funding Supports
 - IGRA Testing
 - Medications to treat TB infection &
suspected and confirmed TB disease

Texas LHD/PHR TB Services

- Local health departments and DSHS Public Health Regions (LHDs/PHRs) perform TB screening with either a T-SPOT or QuantiFERON TB Gold (QFT) IGRA test.
- Both IGRA tests are available through the DSHS' contract with Quest Diagnostics, Inc.
- In addition to TB screening, LHDs/PHRs treat for TB infection and when identified, suspected/confirmed TB disease.



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Texas LHD/PHR TB Services

- As of September 30, 2022, 13 LHD/PHR TB Programs have screened Ukrainian parolees.

Austin Public Health	Public Health Region 7
Collin County Health Care Services	Public Health Region 8
Dallas County Health and Human Services	Public Health Region 11
Denton County Health Department	Houston Health Department
Hidalgo County Health Department	San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
Public Health Region 4/5N	Williamson County and Cities Public Health District
Public Health Region 6/5S	



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Ukrainian Parolees Screened by Funded TB Programs, Texas



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Jurisdiction	Number Screened	Number with TB Infection	Number with Suspected TB Disease
Austin Public Health	12	1	0
Collin County Health Care Services	21	0	0
Dallas County Health and Human Services	3	0	0
Denton County Public Health	7	2	0
Hidalgo County Health Department	2	0	0
Public Health Region 4/5N	1	1	0
Public Health Region 6/5S	12	0	0
Public Health Region 7	1	0	0
Public Health Region 8	1	1	0
Public Health Region 11	7	0	0
Houston Health Department	7	0	3
San Antonio Metropolitan Health District	1	0	0
Williamson County and Cities Health District	35	2	0
Total	110	7	3

DSHS TB Unit Response Activities



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- All TB services for U4U parolees are tracked
 - IGRA accounts are being set up with Quest Diagnostics
 - Medications ordered for this population tracked in ITEAMS
 - Screening is entered in the electronic disease surveillance system, THISIS (TB, IHV, STD Integrated System)
- U4U Fact Sheet for TB Services provides the services offered and tracking tools

U4U Fact Sheet for TB Services Tuberculosis Screening for Ukrainian Parolees

What Local and Regional Health Departments Need to Know

On April 21, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the *Uniting for Ukraine* (U4U) Program. This program is a pathway for Ukrainian citizens and their immediate family members who are outside the U.S. to come to the U.S. and stay temporarily in a two-year period of parole. The U4U Program requires proof of a tuberculosis (TB) screening within 90 days of U.S. arrival.

Local and regional health department (L/RHD) TB programs should provide TB screening, report, and when necessary, treat Ukrainians entering the U.S. through U4U.

TB Screening

The TB screening requirements for U4U are:

- » Ukrainians 2 years of age and older must have a TB screening test performed within 90 days of arrival in the U.S.
- » Children younger than 2 years of age are exempt for TB screening under the federal requirements.
- » L/RHDs can screen with either a T-SPOT® or QuantiFERON® TB Gold (QFT) test.



Order IGRAs for U4U via Quest's Qunam Portal

1. Log onto [Qunam](#).
2. Select the correct Quest Account assigned for U4U under the user profile.
3. Enter patient information.
4. Order the test (T-SPOT or QFT).
5. Log back into Qunam for test results.
6. Contact Quest at **866-697-8378** for support or contact your local Quest account manager.

TB Reporting

Enter TB screening results in the TB/HIV/STD Integrated System (THISIS).



Update THISIS for Patients in the U4U Program

Enter information for any patient who is evaluated by the L/RHD for U4U.

- » In the *Initial Assessment Question Package (QP)*, enter:
 - » **Risk (Other, specify): enter "U4UKRAINE"** (do not include spaces)
- » In the *laboratory template*, enter the IGRA results (Negative, Positive, Indeterminate, Borderline).
- » In the *TB Screening, Xray, and Other Imaging QP*, enter any radiology.
- » In the *TB Medications QP*, enter any treatment provided.

Specify U4U when Ordering Medications

- » When placing a bulk order, enter the **ITEAMS ID** in the *special instructions* box AND enter **"U4U"** and the **patient's county** in the *comments* box.
- » When ordering DOT packets, enter **"U4U"** in the *special instructions* box.

TB Treatment

If TB is suspected:

- » Isolate the patient.
- » Send sputum for rapid molecular testing, i.e., Nucleic Acid Amplification (NAA).
- » If there is evidence of rifampin resistance, consider further molecular testing; notify the TB Unit.

If TB infection is diagnosed:

- » Short-course treatment is recommended unless there is a known or probable history of contact to drug resistant TB; if so, seek consultation for treatment options.





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Questions?
