

## **Health Advisory**

### **Ukrainian Refugees Arriving to the Philadelphia Region July 6, 2022**

#### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The Greater Philadelphia region expects up to 10,000 individuals who have fled Ukraine to arrive in the region over the coming months. Perhaps as many as 2,000 have already arrived.
- Ukrainian refugees need both immediate and ongoing health care.
  - Immediate needs (within 30 days of arrival) include IGRA tuberculosis testing and vaccinations (polio and COVID-19).
  - Ongoing needs include primary care and preventive screenings.
- Ukrainians with humanitarian parole are eligible for Medicaid.

**Eligibility for Benefits:** On May 21, 2022, Congress approved \$900 million to support Ukrainian parolees who arrived between February 24, 2022, and September 30, 2023, due to urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefits, including Medicaid. For more information visit ORR's website: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr/fact-sheet/benefits-ukrainian-humanitarian-parolees>.

There is also support to help file benefits applications through BenePhilly at <https://bdtrust.org/get-help/> or 1-833-373-5868.

#### **Immediate Health Needs**

**Tuberculosis Screening:** The Ukrainian parolees must meet health requirements under DHS rules that were developed in consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The applicants for parole are instructed to seek medical care and to record the completion of health requirements for vaccinations and tuberculosis testing by submitting a Uniting for Ukraine Vaccine Attestation Form, [Uniting for Ukraine Vaccine Attestation | USCIS](#). The requirement for tuberculosis testing with an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) must be met within 30 days of entry.

**Vaccines:** Ukrainian beneficiaries must demonstrate proof of first doses of measles, polio, and COVID-19. These requirements may be adjusted in accordance with evolving public health needs; the most up-to-date requirements will be available at [www.dhs.gov/ukraine](http://www.dhs.gov/ukraine).

#### **Ongoing Health Needs**

**Medical Screening:** CDC developed domestic and overseas medical screening guidance for healthcare providers who may see refugees during the resettlement process. This guidance can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/guidelines/refugee-guidelines.html>. It is based on current medical knowledge and the advice of experts in refugee health. The guidance is a recommendation, not a mandate.

Medical screening best practice aims to:

- promote and improve refugee health
- prevent disease
- address chronic disease
- provide prescriptions for medication
- familiarize refugees with the US healthcare system