

The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) is issuing this health advisory to advise physicians on the mandatory tuberculosis (TB) screening for people arriving from Ukraine to Delaware.

Summary

People arriving from Ukraine to the United States through the “Uniting for Ukraine” (U4U) program are required to get a medical screening for TB within 90 days of arriving in the United States. DPH will facilitate the medical screening for TB.

Background

U4U is a federal program providing a pathway for Ukrainian citizens and their immediate family members who are outside the U.S. to temporarily relocate to the U.S. President Biden announced U4U on April 21, 2022. The U.S. is welcoming up to 100,000 people from Ukraine. It is unclear how many people will relocate to Delaware.

The federal Department of Homeland Security developed health screening requirements for people arriving from Ukraine to the United States through U4U. The U4U health screening requirements include a post-arrival TB screening. U4U post-arrival TB screening requires people attest to getting a medical screening for TB, including an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) test, within 90 days of arriving to the United States. People arriving from Ukraine to the U.S. younger than 2 years old qualify for an exception to the U4U post-arrival TB screening requirement.

Ukraine has an upper-moderate incidence of TB disease (i.e., 50-99 cases per 100,000 people). Among all countries, it has one of the 30 highest burdens of multidrug-resistant TB. Comparatively, the incidence of TB disease in Delaware is usually around two cases per 100,000 people. U4U post-arrival TB screening helps jurisdictions quickly identify cases of TB infection and TB disease and facilitate connections for people with applicable services, including applying for [refugee benefits](#) and TB-related care. The U.S. normally requires pre-arrival TB screening for people with immigrant or refugee status. Post-arrival TB screening normally occurs in situations where ongoing conflict necessitates expedited relocation (e.g., U4U).

Recommendations

- **Completing mandatory TB screening.**
 - If you are asked about TB screening by people from Ukraine who relocated to Delaware through the U4U program, direct them to **call the DPH TB clinic closest to them for an appointment: 302-283-7542 (New Castle County), 302-857-5130 (Kent County), 302-515-3200 (Sussex County). People should NOT go the TB clinic without an appointment.** Remind people to say they are calling about Uniting for Ukraine TB screening. If the person is not living in Delaware, instruct them to call the local health department in the jurisdiction where they are living.
 - DPH will complete the medical screening for TB at no charge for people from Ukraine who relocated to Delaware.

Reporting cases of TB disease and TB infection

- TB disease is a reportable disease in Delaware. **Promptly report suspected (without waiting for laboratory confirmation) and confirmed cases of TB disease to the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology (OIDE).** Cases can be reported by phone (302-744-4990, normal business hours; 1-888-295-5156, outside of normal business hours), fax (302-622-4149), or email (reportdisease@delaware.gov).
- TB infection (TBI), also known as latent TB infection, is not a reportable disease in Delaware. However, OIDE strongly encourages reporting to it cases that meet the [current case definition](#).

Resources

Eliminating TB requires the continuation and strengthening of connections between health care and public health. Contact the Tuberculosis Elimination and Control Branch with any questions about the U4U TB screening requirement, TBI, or TB disease. You can reach the Tuberculosis Elimination and Control Branch at tuberculosis@delaware.gov or by calling 302-744-4990 during normal business hours.

For more information about trauma-informed care, visit the [Institute on Trauma and Trauma-Informed Care](#).

For more information about U4U, refer to information from the [United States Citizenship and Immigration Services](#).

For more information about TB in Delaware, visit the website for the [Tuberculosis Elimination and Control Branch](#).

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). *Uniting for Ukraine: Tuberculosis Information and Resources*. Retrieved 09/23/2022, from <https://www.cdc.gov/tb/programs/unitingforukraine.htm>.
2. World Health Organization. (2021). *WHO global lists of high burden countries for tuberculosis (TB), TB/HIV and multidrug/rifampicin-resistant TB (MDR/RR-TB), 2021–2025*. Retrieved 09/23/2022, from https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/hq-tuberculosis/who_globalhbcliststb_2021-2025_backgrounddocument.pdf?sfvrsn=f6b854c2_9.
3. World Health Organization. (2021). *Global tuberculosis report 2021*. Retrieved 09/23/2022, from <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240037021>.