

# Medical Requirements for Humanitarian Parole under Uniting for Ukraine



## Polio

Patients should be vaccinated for polio within 14 days of U.S. arrival or when they reach vaccine approval age (2 months and older).

WHO DO THESE REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO?

- + Children over 2 months old
- + Adults

MUST BE COMPLETED

**WITHIN 14 DAYS OF U.S. ARRIVAL**

## COVID-19

Patients must complete a full COVID-19 vaccine series within 90 days of U.S. arrival or when they reach the eligible age (6 months and older), whichever is later.

WHO DO THESE REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO?

- + Children over 6 months old
- + Adults

MUST BE COMPLETED

**WITHIN 90 DAYS OF U.S. ARRIVAL**

## Tuberculosis

Patients must complete the tuberculosis screening and the required attestation on their USCIS online profile within 90 days of U.S. arrival.

WHO DO THESE REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO?

- + Children over 2 years old
- + Adults

MUST BE COMPLETED

**WITHIN 90 DAYS OF U.S. ARRIVAL**

 Make sure patients complete an IGRA blood test rather than a skin test.



**NOT FOLLOWING THE MEDICAL / VACCINE / TESTING REQUIREMENTS OF PAROLE COULD PUT A PATIENT'S PAROLE AT RISK, INCLUDING POSSIBLE TERMINATION OF PAROLE.**

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO PROVIDE PATIENTS WITH A COPY OF THEIR HEALTH RECORD AND REMIND THEM TO KEEP IT IN A SAFE PLACE.**

## Purpose of This Document

This document is meant to support medical providers in counselling Ukrainian patients about the health requirements for maintaining humanitarian parole in the United States through the Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) program. Prior to arriving in the United States under U4U, Ukrainians were required to complete a vaccine attestation. They will need to complete another attestation within 90 days after arrival in the United States to maintain their humanitarian parole.

A significant portion of the incoming Ukrainian community has expressed hesitancy about vaccines, potentially putting their parole at risk; not receiving a required vaccine or being untruthful on their attestation could lead to the termination of their parole. Vaccine hesitancy in the Ukrainian community long predates COVID-19 and is rooted in several factors such as fears of side effects and complications, distrust of pharmaceutical companies and authorities, religious disagreements, and doubts about efficacy. In addition, the presence of negative influencers may spread disinformation (intentionally manufactured incorrect information), sowing discord and distrust in the community. Given this, people have an understandable suspicion of vaccines and the motivations behind them.

Navigating sensitivities around vaccine hesitancy can be challenging. This document aims to provide a guideline towards promoting patient knowledge around vaccines and their benefits, particularly in the context of health requirements for maintaining humanitarian parole.

## Polio Vaccine

Approved for ages 2 months and older

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If the patient previously attested that their child was not vaccinated against polio because the vaccine was not approved or licensed for use in their age group, they will need to:

- ✓ Get their child vaccinated for polio within 14 days of arrival in the U.S. or when the child reaches vaccine approval age (two months and older).

## COVID-19 Vaccine

Approved for ages 6 months and older

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If a patient previously attested that they or their child received at least one dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine but were not fully vaccinated, they will need to:

- ✓ Complete an approved COVID-19 vaccine series within 90 days after arrival. For humanitarian parole under U4U, "fully vaccinated" for COVID-19 means that they have completed their COVID-19 vaccine series in accordance with [CDC guidelines](#).

If a patient attested that their child has not received at least one dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine but qualified for an exception to this requirement because the child is too young, they will need to:

- ✓ Have their child start a COVID-19 vaccine series within 90 days of arrival to the United States or when the child reaches the eligible age (six months and older), whichever is later. They will also need to complete the recommended COVID-19 vaccine series so the child is considered fully vaccinated.

If a patient attested that they or their child are not vaccinated against COVID-19 because the vaccine was not approved or licensed for use in their age group or their child's age group in the place they were residing before coming to the United States, they will need to:

- ✓ Start a COVID-19 vaccine series within 90 days of arrival to the United States. They will also need to complete the recommended COVID-19 vaccine series so they can be considered fully vaccinated.

## Tuberculosis (TB) Screening

Required for ages 2 years and older

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People over the age of two years old must complete a tuberculosis screening with an **IGRA (interferon-gamma release assay) blood test** and the required attestation within 90 days after arrival to the United States. **Note that a skin test for TB is not sufficient to meet this requirement.** They will need to attest to one of the below:

- ✓ **Negative TB test result.** This means they had a TB screening with an IGRA (interferon-gamma release assay) blood test, and the test result was negative. They will need to keep a copy of the IGRA test results.

- ✓ **Indeterminate TB test result.** This means they had screening with an IGRA (interferon-gamma release assay) blood test, and the results were indeterminate (meaning uncertain). They will need to have more testing and must agree to follow up with a state or local public health office or doctor's office. They will need to keep a copy of the IGRA test results.
- ✓ **Positive TB test result.** This means they had screening with an IGRA (interferon-gamma release assay) blood test, and this screening was positive for tuberculosis. Because they might have active tuberculosis, they must agree to receive a chest x-ray. If the chest x-ray is abnormal or if there are other signs or symptoms of active tuberculosis disease, the patient must agree to follow the isolation and treatment measures as decided by the state or local public health office or doctor's office. They will need to keep a copy of the IGRA test results, as well as documentation that they followed up for additional testing and treatment.

## Counseling for Vaccine Hesitancy

Building patient confidence around vaccines requires trust. Health professionals may consider using the principles of Motivational Interviewing (MI), an evidence-based technique used to address patient ambivalence. Autonomy, collaboration, and curiosity are tantamount in MI-based interactions, with key skills focusing on the following: open-ended questions, affirmations, reflection, and summarization. For more information about Motivational Interviewing, visit the National Resource Center for Refugees, Immigrants, and Migrants' (NRC-RIM) [website](#).

Depending on the patient's vaccine stance, below are different ways to begin a conversation about vaccines and vaccine requirements:

- ✓ **If the patient is not ready to consider vaccination** – Elicit the patient's own reasons for not wanting immunization. Ask open-ended but specific questions: for example, "What will help you be sure of vaccination safety? What benefits do you see in being protected against preventable diseases?"
- ✓ **If the individual is somewhat reluctant to vaccinate themselves and/or their children** – Validate and ask questions about the patient's doubts. For example, if a patient has expressed fears about vaccine-related death, you might reflect upon the fear and say: "It is normal to worry about a potential negative impact from the vaccine. Still, there continues to be numerous people who have died from getting COVID-19 due to not receiving the vaccine (alternatively, if the patient is concerned about the Polio vaccine, you might say, "Still, there continues to be outbreaks in countries around the world each year of this incredibly infectious and potentially life-threatening virus"). Is there a specific concern we can discuss together?"
- ✓ **If the patient has encountered negative information about the vaccines but is open to listening about the benefits** – Affirm the patient's fears around negative information they have encountered and focus on ensuring the patient feels heard. Invite the patient to consider a different perspective by offering evidence on the efficacy and benefits of vaccines, with an emphasis on preventative disease and child health. Offer verified literature from different sources, if possible (for example, the NRC-RIM resource: [COVID-19 Resource for Ukrainian New Arrivals](#)). Reflect on the different positive outcomes of being vaccinated.

It is important to meet patients where they are, keeping in mind that they may all be at different stages of their vaccination deliberation. Medically accurate information that is delivered in a sensitive, empathetic, and relevant way (for instance, if a client is concerned with child safety outside the home, focusing on the benefits of communal immunization to promote child safety may be helpful). Though the MI approach is not fast-acting, the organic nature of relationship and trust-building with clients allows for steady, more consistent success with tackling vaccine hesitancy and beyond.

## Where can parolees make their attestation?

Within 90 days of arrival in the U.S., parolees must complete their attestation in their [USCIS online account](#).

For anyone with questions about how to update their attestation or are in need of assistance, here are resources that are available to support.

**The Virtual Resettlement Line (VRL)** – A one-stop resource for any Ukrainian humanitarian parolee who is struggling to access benefits or resources in their community. VRL is staffed by English, Ukrainian, and Russian speaking staff. Any newly arrived Ukrainian humanitarian parolee in the U.S. can access the VRL by [calling +1 \(212\) 551-3010](#) or [emailing vrl@rescue.org](mailto:vrl@rescue.org), Monday - Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM ET.

**Ukraine Immigration Task Force (UITF)** – A volunteer legal coalition to provide displaced Ukrainians and their support networks with timely guidance and practical resources on the U.S. immigration processes. To contact UITF, [please fill out the contact form on the UITF website](#) or email [support@ukrainetaskforce.org](mailto:support@ukrainetaskforce.org) with the subject line "Parolee Health Requirements Inquiry" or "Health Attestations Inquiry."