

Medical Requirements for Humanitarian Parole under Uniting for Ukraine



Pre-travel attestation	Who do these requirements apply to?	Must be completed by
Measles	All individuals 12 months and older	Prior to U.S. arrival
COVID-19	All individuals 6 months and older	The first dose must be completed prior to U.S. arrival. All individuals must attest that they will complete the recommended primary vaccine series upon arrival to the U.S.
Polio	All individuals 6 weeks and over	Prior to U.S. arrival

Post-travel attestation	Who do these requirements apply to?	Must be completed by
COVID-19	The first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is a pre-arrival requirement for all individuals 6 months and older. All individuals must attest that they will complete the recommended primary vaccine series upon arrival to the U.S.	Within 90 days of U.S. arrival
Polio	This is a pre-arrival requirement for all individuals 6 weeks and older	If a child was not vaccinated against polio prior to travel, the child will need to be vaccinated within 90 days of arrival in the U.S. or when they reach vaccine approval age (6 weeks and older).
Tuberculosis (TB)	All individuals 2 years and over must be tested for TB. An interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) blood test is needed to fulfill the TB screening requirement.	Within 90 days of U.S. arrival

* Some exceptions may apply to these health requirements. Please see the USCIS U4U Vaccine Attestation page for more information ([English](#), [Russian](#), [Ukrainian](#)). Last updated March 2024.

Medical Requirements for Humanitarian Parole under Uniting for Ukraine



This document is meant to support medical providers in counseling 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.

Requirements for U4U Humanitarian Parole

Under Uniting for Ukraine (U4U), parolees must complete a pre-travel vaccine attestation before being granted parole and another attestation within 90-days after arrival to the U.S. This document provides important information related to the pre-travel and post-travel attestations.

PRE-TRAVEL ATTESTATION

1 Measles Vaccine

All individuals 12 months and older must complete at least one dose of the measles vaccine.

2 COVID-19 Vaccine

Everyone six months and older must complete at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine pre-travel.

- ✓ This vaccine must be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the World Health Organization Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL).
- ✓ All individuals must attest that they will complete the recommended primary vaccine series upon arrival to the U.S.

3 Polio Vaccine

All individuals 6 weeks and older must complete the polio vaccine. Some exceptions may apply:

- ✓ If the individual is younger than 6 weeks old
- ✓ If the vaccine is not approved or licensed for the individual's age group

1 COVID-19 Vaccine

The first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is a pre-arrival requirement for all individuals six months and older. All individuals must attest that they will complete the recommended primary vaccine series upon arrival to the U.S.

If the individual attested that they or their child **had received at least one dose** of an approved COVID-19 vaccine pre-travel, but were not fully vaccinated, they will need to:

- ✓ Complete a recommended COVID-19 primary vaccine series within 90 days after arrival. For humanitarian parole under U4U, “fully vaccinated” for COVID-19 means that the individual has completed the primary vaccine series according to current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

If the individual attested that their child **had not received at least one dose** of an approved COVID-19 vaccine pre-travel, but qualified for an exception to this requirement because they were too young, the individual will need to:

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

2 Polio Vaccine

This is a pre-arrival requirement for all individuals 6 weeks and older.

If the individual attested that their child was not vaccinated against polio prior to travel, they will need to:

- ✓ Get their child vaccinated for polio within 90 days of arrival in the U.S. or when they reach vaccine approval age (6 weeks and older).

3 Tuberculosis (TB) Screening

Parolees two years and older must complete an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) blood test to fulfill the Tuberculosis Screening requirement and the required attestation within 90 days after U.S. arrival. They will need to attest to one of the below:

- ✓ **Negative test result.** This means the IGRA blood test result came back negative and the individual does not have TB.
- ✓ **Indeterminate test result.** This means the IGRA blood test result came back uncertain. If this happens, they will need to agree on the attestation to have more testing and follow-up with a medical professional.
- ✓ **Positive test result.** This means the IGRA blood test result came back positive for TB. If this happens, the individual will need to get a chest x-ray to see if the TB is active or not. If they receive a positive test result, they must attest that they will get treated and follow medical recommendations.

It is important that the patient keeps a copy of all test results and documentation so that they can prove that they have followed all the recommended 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, here are resources that are available to support.

*<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine/uniting-for-ukraine-vaccine-attestation>

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, **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** with the subject line “Parolee Health Requirements Inquiry” or “Health Attestations Inquiry.”



Not completing the health requirements of U4U puts an individual’s parole, and any future application for asylum or any other immigration benefit at risk, including possible termination of parole.

Always provide the parolee with a copy of their health records and advise them to keep it in a safe place.