

Ukrainian Evacuees Early Assessment Tool for Primary Care Providers

Mar 28, 2022, v1.0

Overview

Displaced people arriving from Ukraine may be subject to specific risks due to the increased incidence of various infectious diseases in Ukraine as well as the disrupted living conditions before and during their displacement.

Ukrainian evacuees will enter Alberta as visitors and not as refugees. They will have 90 days to undergo medical assessment, at their expense, by a federally-designated physician. This will include a chest X-ray for everyone 11 years of age and over and testing for Syphilis and HIV for those 15 years of age and older. All evacuees will be eligible for health care coverage and will be encouraged to connect to public health and primary care upon arrival. Healthcare providers are requested not to turn away requests for care, but to respond as needed and submit claims following guidance provided by Alberta Health.

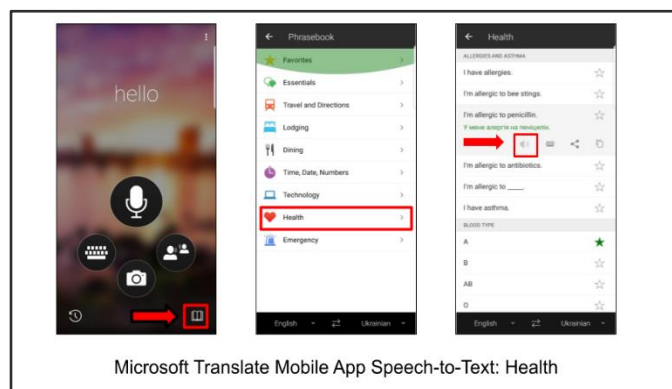
Interpretation

We anticipate many evacuees arriving in our province will not have English as their first language. All Primary Care Network members and primary care physicians can now use the following **dedicated number, at no cost, to access a Ukrainian or Russian AHS professional medical interpreter: 1-833-955-2171**. For any other language, please use your regular Language Line number (regular cost). If you do not know your number, please contact Kaya at kayathiri.ganeshamoorthy@ahs

Russian / Ukrainian Translation Apps

A rapid review was done to examine the availability of medical translation apps that had strong privacy policies and supported Ukrainian and Russian language.

Unfortunately, all medical translation apps reviewed by experts¹ did not support the Ukrainian language. Two alternatives would be [Microsoft Translate](#) or [Google Translate](#). The Microsoft Translate **mobile app** includes simple medical prompting questions.



Microsoft Translate Mobile App Speech-to-Text: Health

¹ Panayiotou A, Gardner A, Williams S, et al. Language Translation Apps in Health Care Settings: Expert Opinion. JMIR Mhealth Uhealth. 2019;7(4):e11316. Published 2019 Apr 9. doi:10.2196/11316

Tool Overview

Health staff may screen Ukrainian Evacuees, and sign off to ensure continuity of care between providers. For an in-depth overview of each health risk category, please review [Appendix 1: Alberta Health Information Fact Sheet Ukrainian Evacuees Information for Primary Care](#)

Name:
DOB (DD/MM/YYYY):
ULI:

Specific Health Risks: Communicable diseases			
Tuberculosis	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	<p>If active TB is suspected, isolate immediately and contact TB Services at the numbers below.</p> <p>Patients with known TB who are on medications can be referred directly to AHS TB Services (Edmonton: 780-407-4550; Calgary: 403-944-7660; remainder of province: 780-735-1464).</p>		
Follow up	<p>Refer all children and adults to your local public health clinic for assessment of their immunization status and any recommended immunization administration as well as latent TB screening with a tuberculin skin test (TST).</p> <p>If vaccination records exist, these should be taken to their appointments with Public Health.</p>		
Rationale	<p>TB remains a major public health problem and a priority communicable disease in Ukraine. Ukraine is one of 10 countries with the highest burden of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB).</p>		
<p>Please screen for blood-borne illnesses such as HIV, Hepatitis B (testing for Hepatitis B surface antigen) and Hepatitis C.</p>			
Blood-Borne Illness	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	<p>If > 15 yrs: HIV and Syphilis Serology, Hepatitis B Serology (HBsAg, Anti-HBSAg, Anti-HBc total), Hepatitis C Serology</p>		
Follow up	<p>Contact Public Health if you have reason to believe someone is or may be infected with a notifiable communicable disease.</p>		
Rationale	<p>HIV remains an ongoing public health issue in Ukraine. Estimated 257,000 people living with HIV in Ukraine, with 57% receiving antiretroviral treatment. Ukraine has the second highest prevalence of HIV/TB co-infection (26%) in the WHO European Region.</p>		

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Vaccination and Vaccine Preventable Diseases:			
Given the increased risk for vaccine-preventable diseases such as COVID-19, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria and Polio, please consider these in your differential diagnosis of acutely ill evacuees and collect the appropriate specimens.			
COVID-19	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	<p>Unimmunized evacuees will be expected to quarantine for 10 days in an approved site. They will be tested on Day 1 of arrival and provided with a kit for Day 8 testing as part of the federal requirements.</p> <p>Host families can access Rapid Antigen Tests at pharmacies for use should anyone develop COVID-19 compatible symptoms. Alberta requires that anyone with COVID-19 compatible symptoms isolate immediately, regardless of whether or not a test has been done.</p> <p>Anyone eligible for antiviral treatment should be directed to have a lab PCR test at an AHS Assessment Centre.</p>		
Follow up	Upon successful completion of quarantine, any unimmunized children, youth and adults who are eligible for immunization should be encouraged to access COVID-19 immunization.		
Rationale	34% of the Ukrainian population is fully immunized for COVID-19, which is the seventh lowest in the WHO European region.		
Polio	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	<p>Flaccid paralysis occurs in less than 1% of cases of poliomyelitis, with more than 90% of infections occurring with no symptoms or with nonspecific fever.</p> <p>Include testing of stool for polio as part of your diagnostic workup of an ill child. Report Acute Flaccid Paralysis to public health immediately. Ensure that all evacuees are referred to public health for immunization.</p>		
Follow up	As per usual practice.		
Rationale	There is considerable vulnerability to polio for children under 6 due to the insufficient vaccination coverage in Ukraine. A polio outbreak was confirmed in October 2021, caused by vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2.		

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Measles	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	As per usual practice. Report suspect Measles case to public health immediately. Do not wait for confirmatory test results.		
Follow up	As per usual practice.		
Rationale	A nationwide Measles outbreak occurred in 2017 - 2019, but cases fell significantly in 2020 - 2021 due to public health measures. Displaced Ukrainians crowding in shelters could increase the risk of measles transmission.		
Specific Women's Health			
Maternal and Newborn Care	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	Please promote routine childhood immunization and the initiation and continuation of breastfeeding in newborns and infants. Assess for the need for postpartum, neonatal and pediatric health care.		
Follow up	As per usual practice.		
Rationale	As per usual practice.		
Pregnancy	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	Consider pregnancy in women of reproductive age.		
Follow up	As per usual practice.		
Rationale	Based on usual care for women of reproductive age.		

Name:
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Contraception needs	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	Assess women of a reproductive age for contraceptive needs.		
Follow up	As per usual practice.		
Rationale	Based on usual care for women of reproductive age.		
Cervical cancer and breast cancer screening	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	As appropriate for age. Lower priority for the first visit; may want to delay to later visits.		
Follow up	As per usual practice.		
Rationale	Based on usual care.		
Non-Communicable Diseases and Conditions			
Mental Health	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	<p>Assess and provide immediate attention as needed. Ensure linkages with mental health services and resources in their language or with appropriate cultural interpretation services.</p> <p>Routine screening for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) not recommended.</p> <p>Watch for signs and symptoms of mental health concerns in adults and children, including PTSD and depression, and other chronic mental health conditions.</p> <p>The CAMH Refugee Mental Health Project has additional information and courses on refugee mental health.</p>		
Follow up	Monitor for potential sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment, and ensure urgent and timely referrals to existing authorities as needed. If signs of PTSD, depression or other mental health concerns, treat or refer as appropriate.		

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Rationale	The Canadian Collaboration for Immigrant and Refugee Health recommends sensitivity regarding the request for disclosure of traumatic events in well-functioning individuals as this may be harmful.		
Vision needs	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	Conduct an age-appropriate visual assessment.		
Follow up	Refer individuals to optometrists or ophthalmologists for further evaluation.		
Rationale	As per usual practice.		
Sexual and Reproductive	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	If > 15 yrs: HIV and Syphilis Serology will be requested as part of the immigration medical. Consider screening sexually active individuals with Urine NAAT for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea.		
Follow up	Contact Public Health if you have reason to believe someone is or may be infected with a notifiable communicable disease.		
Rationale	Consider sexual and reproductive health care (including STI prevention, screening and treatment).		
Chronic diseases	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	Screen for chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol, colorectal cancer etc. as appropriate based on age and risk factors as per usual practice.		
Follow up	Follow-up as per usual care.		
Rationale	Chronic diseases may be unrecognized or unmanaged due to limited access to care.		

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Iron deficiency anemia	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	Complete blood count (CBC) recommended for children 1 to 4 years of age and women of child bearing age. Routine testing for other groups as clinically indicated.		
Follow up	Follow-up as required.		
Rationale	Iron deficiency is the most common cause of anemia and prevalence is higher in newcomers to Canada. Iron deficiency anemia can result in poor outcomes in pregnancy and impaired physical and cognitive development in young children.		
Dental needs	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:
Recommendation	Assess for urgent dental care needs such as pain, obvious dental caries and oral disease using a penlight and tongue depressor. Counsel regarding oral hygiene.		
Follow up	Treat dental pain with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. Provide urgent or routine referral to dentist or oral health specialist as indicated.		
Rationale	Dental needs may have been unmet due to limited access to care		
List of Medications	Completed <input type="checkbox"/>	NA <input type="checkbox"/>	Initial:

Appendix 1

Ukrainian Evacuees

Information for Primary Care

Background

Since the onset of Russia's aggression towards Ukraine on February 24, 2022 and as of March 24, 2022, more than 3.7 million Ukrainians have fled to neighbouring countries. From there, it is expected that some will seek resettlement in Alberta.

Displaced people arriving from Ukraine may be subject to specific risks due to the increased incidence of various infectious diseases in Ukraine as well as the disrupted living conditions before and during their displacement.

The conflict in Ukraine is taking a toll on the wellbeing and mental health of its population and evacuees will require mental health care services and support. Families have been separated and displaced. Evacuees have had their medical care disrupted. This puts them at increased risk for adverse events secondary to lapsed use of medication for illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes, HIV and tuberculosis.

Ukrainian evacuees will enter Alberta as visitors and not as refugees. They will have 90 days to undergo medical assessment, at their expense, by a federally-designated physician. This will include a chest X-ray for everyone 11 years of age and over and testing for Syphilis and HIV for those 15 years of age and older. All evacuees will be eligible for health care coverage and will be encouraged to connect to public health and primary care upon arrival. Healthcare providers are requested not to turn away requests for care, but to respond as needed and submit claims following guidance provided by Alberta Health.

Hosting families should be encouraged to be up to date with their immunizations, including COVID-19. The safe support of Ukrainian refugees requires close attention to communicable disease prevention and preventive measures, such as screening, immunization, and timely access to primary care.

Specific Health Risks

Tuberculosis

TB remains a major public health problem and a priority communicable disease in Ukraine. According to the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#), based on 2019 data, Ukraine reported the second highest number of TB cases (28,539) in Europe, with an incidence of 65 cases per 100,000 population. Ukraine is one of 10 countries with the highest burden of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), and in 2019, Ukraine reported 27% MDR-TB among new cases (4,490 cases).

HIV

HIV remains an ongoing public health issue in Ukraine. According to the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control](#), based on data from 2020, Ukraine reported 15,658 new HIV diagnoses (37.5 per 100,000 population, compared to the EU rate of 3.3 per 100,000 population). In 2020, it was estimated that 257,000 people were living with HIV in Ukraine, with approximately 57% receiving antiretroviral treatment (146,000 individuals). Ukraine also has the second highest prevalence of HIV/TB co-infection (26%) in the World Health Organization European Region (7,800 cases in 2019).

COVID-19

Only 34% of the Ukrainian population is fully immunized for COVID-19, which is the seventh lowest in the World Health Organization European region.

Polio

In Ukraine, there is still considerable vulnerability to polio, particularly for children under 6 years of age, primarily due to the insufficient level of vaccination coverage in this age group. In certain regions in the west of Ukraine, the vaccination coverage is considerably lower than in the neighbouring countries. A polio outbreak in Ukraine was confirmed in October 2021, caused by vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2. A national vaccination campaign began on February 1, 2022 as a response to the outbreak, but this was disrupted by Russia's aggression.

Measles

Vulnerability to measles is a serious concern, as the overall vaccination coverage for measles (81.9% in 2020) is insufficient to prevent outbreaks. This was reflected in a nationwide outbreak that started in 2017 and peaked in 2019. The number of cases reported in Ukraine fell significantly in 2020 and 2021 compared to the two previous years, which may be explained by public health measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic. Displaced

Ukrainians crowding in shelters and reception centres could increase the risk of measles transmission, particularly as spring coincides with the natural seasonality of the disease.

Requested Primary Care Actions

COVID-19

- Unimmunized evacuees will be expected to quarantine for 10 days in an approved site, expected to be the host families for most. They will be tested on Day 1 of arrival and provided with a kit for Day 8 testing as part of the federal requirements.
- Host families can access Rapid Antigen Tests at pharmacies for use should anyone develop COVID-19 compatible symptoms. Alberta requires that anyone with COVID-19 compatible symptoms isolate immediately, regardless of whether or not a test has been done.
- Anyone eligible for antiviral treatment should be directed to have a lab PCR test at an AHS Assessment Centre.
- Upon successful completion of quarantine, any unimmunized children, youth and adults who are eligible for immunization should be encouraged to access COVID-19 immunization.

Respiratory Illnesses

- Given the prevalence of TB in Ukraine, please keep this on your differential, and if active TB is suspected, isolate immediately and contact Public Health. Patients with known TB who are on medications can be referred directly to AHS TB Services (Edmonton: 780-407-4550; Calgary: 403-944-7660; remainder of province: 780-735-1464).

Vaccine-Preventable and Communicable Diseases:

- Please refer all children and adults to Public Health for an assessment of their immunization status and any recommended immunization administration as well as latent TB screening with a tuberculin skin test (TST). If vaccination records exist, these should be taken to their appointments with Public Health.
- Given the increased risk for vaccine-preventable diseases such as COVID-19, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria and Polio, please consider these in your differential diagnosis of acutely ill evacuees and collect the appropriate specimens. Flaccid paralysis occurs in less than 1% of poliomyelitis, with more than 90% of infections occurring with no symptoms or with nonspecific fever.
- Please screen for blood-borne illnesses such as HIV, Hepatitis B (testing for Hepatitis B surface antigen) and Hepatitis C.
- Please contact Public Health if you have reason to believe someone is or may be infected with a notifiable communicable disease (e.g., Measles).

Maternal and Newborn Care

- Please promote routine childhood immunization and the initiation and continuation of breastfeeding in newborns and infants.

Mental Health

- Assess and provide immediate attention as needed. Ensure linkages with mental health services and resources in their language or with appropriate cultural interpretation services.
- Monitor for potential sexual exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment, and ensure urgent and timely referrals to existing authorities as needed.

Other Supports

- Other supports to consider are sexual and reproductive health care (including sexually transmitted infection [STI] prevention, screening and treatment) as well as obstetrics, neonatal and pediatric health care.

Interpretation

- We anticipate many evacuees arriving in our province will not have English as their first language. All Primary Care Network members and primary care physicians can now use the following dedicated number, at no cost, to access a Ukrainian or Russian AHS professional medical interpreter: 1-833-955-2171.
- For any other language, please use your regular Language Line number (regular cost). If you do not know your number, please contact Kaya at kayathiri.ganeshamoorthy@ahs