UNITING FOR UKRAINE: STEPS FOR COMPLETING THE BENEFICIARY’S REQUIREMENTS

Overview

After the sponsor’s application is approved, beneficiaries should receive 2 emails:
First, beneficiaries should receive a confirmation notice.
Second, they should receive an account notice explaining how to create a USCIS account to add their information and link their confirmed I-134.

After they set up their USCIS account, they will need to:

1. Confirm their biographic information and, if necessary, correct their passport information.
2. Complete their vaccination attestation, found here: https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine/uniting-for-ukraine-vaccine-attestation
3. Complete their minor eligibility attestation, found here: https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine/minor-eligibility-attestation
4. Add travel group members to the primary beneficiary’s case and complete their attestations
5. Submit all the information to CBP

The USCIS interface is in English, but it may be helpful to send them these instructions in advance and guide them through the steps if necessary.

Please note that some of the specific language or requirements may have changed since these screenshots were created. The content of the current requirements can be found on the USCIS Uniting for Ukraine page in English and Ukrainian at this link: https://www.uscis.gov/ukraine

There is no set time frame for how long it takes to issue the travel authorization to the beneficiary, but it usually takes less time than approving the sponsor’s application. It depends to some extent on how quickly the beneficiary can fill out and submit all the required information and attestations, and whether someone in the beneficiary’s travel group raises any security alerts or other flags during the vetting process due to previous U.S. visits.

Finally, beneficiaries in a travel group may receive their travel authorization approvals at different times. If there is more than one beneficiary in a travel group, they may need to wait for all the travel authorizations to be received before making their travel arrangements. Once they travel authorizations are issued, they will have 90 days in which to travel to the United States.
Instructions for Beneficiaries

First, the beneficiary will receive an account notice explaining how to create a USCIS account to add their information and link their confirmed I-134. The USCIS interface will look something like the lefthand pane of this screenshot:

Then the beneficiary can log in and complete the actions shown in the dashboard and complete each task listed here:
Step 1: Confirm their biographic information and, if necessary, correct their passport information:

- Review and confirm biographic information supporter provided.
- Beneficiary can correct some information.
- Beneficiary cannot change basis of filing, receipt number, Alien Number, passport number, or passport-issuing country.
- Beneficiary also must confirm where they physically live.

Step 2: Complete their vaccination attestation (sample language can be found here: https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine/uniting-for-ukraine-vaccine-attestation):
Step 3: Complete their minor eligibility attestation (sample language found here: https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine/minor-eligibility-attestation):
Attest To Having Required Vaccinations

COVID-19 Vaccine (Select one)

☐ I have received at least one dose of a US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine or a COVID-19 vaccine with World Health Organization Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL). If not fully vaccinated, I will complete a recommended COVID-19 vaccine series within 90 days after arrival. If the COVID-19 vaccine I received cannot be determined or is not available in the United States, I will receive at least one dose of an FDA approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine according to the guidelines: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/covid-19-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html

☐ I have not received at least one dose of an US Food and Drug administration (FDA) approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine or a COVID-19 vaccine with World Health Organization Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL) but qualify for an exception to this requirement because I am too young. I will start a COVID-19 vaccine series within 90 days of arrival to the United States or reaching the eligible age, whichever is later, and will complete my recommended primary vaccine series in accordance with current CDC guidelines: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/covid-19-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html

☐ I am older than 6 months of age, but I am not vaccinated against COVID-19 because the vaccine is not approved or licensed for use in my age group where I have been residing. I will start a COVID-19 vaccine series within 90 days of arrival to the United States and will complete my recommended primary vaccine series in accordance with current CDC guidelines: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/covid-19-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html

☐ I have not received at least one dose of an US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine or a COVID-19 vaccine with World Health Organization Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL) but qualify for an exception to this requirement because I have a history of a known medical contraindication to the COVID-19 vaccine. Contraindications are listed at: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/covid-19-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html/contraindications

Step 4: Add travel group members to the primary beneficiary's case and complete their attestations by entering each beneficiary's Alien Number, passport number, and USCIS receipt number:

Add Travel Group Member(s) (if any)

- Beneficiary can add travel group members. (This is optional, but helpful if travelling with a group.)
- Each person added must be a beneficiary on a confirmed Form I-134.
- A-Number and receipt number are on Confirmation/Account Notice.
- If you add a travel group member, you must complete attestations for each person and submit to CBP.
Step 5: Submit all the information to CBP:

After the beneficiaries submit their information to CBP, the vetting process will take place by CBP. If everything is verified and approved, beneficiaries will receive an email instructing them to check their USCIS account for the result of their authorization to travel. If travel is authorized, they will receive a notice with further instructions. Please note that beneficiaries may receive their travel authorization emails and approvals at different times. Here is what the travel communications will look like:
When CBP Authorizes Travel

- If CBP authorizes travel, beneficiary should check their “Notices” tab to view travel authorization notice.
- Travel authorization notice for travel group members may not be ready at the same time.
- Beneficiaries should continue to check their account for notices.

The travel authorization will look like this but will contain a line under this text with the beneficiary's name, Alien Number, passport number, date of birth, approval status, and expiration date:

They can then make travel arrangements to come to the U.S.

Beneficiaries will receive their travel authorizations automatically after they have completed and submitted their required information outlined in my previous email. Sometimes, the travel authorizations are sent at different times to members of the travel group. They should not be alarmed if all the travel authorizations do not all arrive at the same time. Once they travel authorizations are issued, they will have 90 days in which to travel to the United States.
Vaccinations and Health Testing Requirements

Beneficiaries who are not previously vaccinated against measles, polio, and at least one dose of the COVID-19 will need to receive those vaccines before they are allowed to travel. Once they get those, they will need to submit attestations in their USCIS accounts of having been vaccinated. Then CBP will process their requests for travel authorizations.

Once they are paroled into the United States, beneficiaries will need to complete a medical attestation within 90 days of arrival that they will comply with the medical screening for tuberculosis and get the remaining COVID vaccination if they only got one dose before arrival. They should arrange for their own vaccinations and medical screening for tuberculosis, including an Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) blood test. Children who are at least 2 years old are also required to complete a medical screening for tuberculosis within 90 days of arrival. Children under 2 years old who qualify for an exception to the tuberculosis test screening don't need to get the screening, but they still need to complete the medical attestation within 90 days of arrival. Beneficiaries who test positive for tuberculosis must take the appropriate measures, including additional screening, and, if applicable, a chest radiograph, isolation, and treatment.

Here is a preview of the health attestation page: https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/uniting-for-ukraine/uniting-for-ukraine-vaccine-attestation

Beneficiaries are not required to provide records of pre-travel vaccinations. They only need to submit responses in the attestations that they received the required pre-travel vaccinations. For more information on health and vaccination requirements/attestations, take a look at our article: https://ukrainetaskforce.org/uniting-for-ukraine-vaccination-and-testing-requirements/

Beneficiaries should also check for new/other travel requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that are not specific to Uniting for Ukraine, including pre-departure testing for COVID-19. In addition, they should check with the airline they plan to use to see if there are extra requirements for passengers.

Certified Translations and Traveling with Children

It is strongly recommended to travel with a certified translation of a child's birth certificate (or proof of Legal Guardianship). When a minor child arrives at a U.S. airport, Customs and Border Protection will ask to see these documents. If the documents are in Ukrainian or a language other than English, the CBP officer may not accept them if they cannot translate them or a translator is not available to verify the document’s content. If the CBP officer is unable to confirm that the adult has legal authorization to travel with the child, then the adult and child could be separated while they are questioned and the situation is investigated. For more information on traveling with children, take a look at our article: https://ukrainetaskforce.org/traveling-with-children-through-uniting-for-ukraine/

There are certified translation services available online that handle official documents. Here is one service that some of our attorneys use: https://rushtranslate.com/. Alternately, the Consulate General of Ukraine in the country where the beneficiaries are residing may be able to assist with this.

Children who do not have their own passport should be included ("inscribed") into a parent's passport. All travelers must have a passport that is valid for international travel (not simply an "internal" passport for Ukraine).
What to Expect at the CBP Interview
When the beneficiaries arrive at the airport, they will be interviewed by CBP officers before being officially paroled.

For the CBP interview at the airport, the following guide published by one of our collaborating organizations may be useful. The vaccine and health testing information may have changed slightly since this publication was written, so please refer to the guidance in the previous section for the most up to date information on health requirements.

We will update this guide shortly.

Travelers with Disabilities or Lack of English Understanding
Passengers with disabilities and/or who do not speak English should contact their airline to tell them to arrange a representative to speak with CBP on behalf of the passengers at arrival. The airline should be notified before travel that the passengers will need assistance. The airline representative will then speak with CBP on behalf of the passengers. Ideally, the airline will be able to provide an interpreter, or, an interpreter should travel with the passengers. Also, the beneficiaries may want to print notices in English informing the airline staff and CBP officers that they do not speak English and/or have a disability that requires additional staff to assist.

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