



Indiana  
Department  
of  
Health

# TB Talk

Q3 2023

## Spotlight

### Public Health Nurse Conference

On June 28 and 29, the Local Health Department (LHD) Public Health Nurse (PHN) Conference hosted by the IDOH LHD Outreach division was held in Carmel, Indiana. The TB Prevention & Care program staffed a table in the event's Exhibitor Hall. Our regional nurse consultants (RNCs) also presented a presentation at a breakout session titled [TB, CI, & LTBI—Oh My!](#) It was great to see so many of you!

If you are interested in ordering more printed copies of any of the materials we shared at the event, please reach out to a [regional nurse consultant](#) &/or [Kathy Chapuran](#), TB health educator. We will pay for shipping charges. Images of a selection of the materials appear below.

**LATENT TB INFECTION**

People with latent tuberculosis (LTBI) do not feel sick and do not have any symptoms. They are not contagious and do not spread TB disease. TB disease first develops itself in the body, but the body's immune system is keeping the bacteria suppressed and under control.

**Did you know?**

- LTBI is a reportable condition in Indiana.
- A TB skin test or blood test can detect TB infection.
- Treating LTBI prevents TB disease.
- Without treatment 1 IN 10 people with LTBI will develop TB disease.
- LTBI is easier and less costly to treat than TB disease.
- Free treatment for LTBI is available at local health departments.

Source: CDC, 2019

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**Think TB...Test for TB**

- LONG-TERM COUGH
- FEVER
- FATIGUE
- CHILLS
- WEIGHT LOSS
- NIGHT SWEATS
- COUGHING UP BLOOD
- NO APPETITE
- CHEST PAIN

Patients may have one or more of these signs and symptoms.

Questions? Need more information? Please contact the Indiana State Department of Health.  
**317-233-7434 | www.TB.in.gov**

www.TB.in.gov

Indiana Department of Health

**TB and HIV**

Tuberculosis (TB) is the **leading cause of death** among people living with HIV.

People with HIV are **10 times** more likely to progress from latent TB infection (LTBI) to TB disease than people without HIV.

**10x**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends HIV screening for **ALL** TB and LTBI patients.

www.TB.in.gov

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### Education Activities

#### GTBI Nurse Case Conference: TB Meningitis

Oct. 11

Noon -1 pm EDT

[Registration link](#)

#### APHL Understanding TB Laboratory Testing for Public Health Nurses

Available on demand

#### GTBI TB 101 Series

Recordings available on demand

# News & Events

## Uniting for Ukraine

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released [new resources](#) to increase awareness about the TB screening and attestation requirements of the Uniting for Ukraine program. The new materials include

- [Conversation Guide for Talking with your Clients about Screening for TB'](#)
- [Get Screened for TB: Complete the Uniting for Ukraine Program Requirement Fact Sheet](#)
- [Uniting for Ukraine Requires Screening to TB Flyer/Poster](#)



The materials are available in English, Ukrainian, and Russian. Printed versions of the materials can be ordered free from [CDC On-Demand Publications](#).

## Ukrainian and Parolee Arrival TB Screening Reimbursement

Reimbursement is available through the IDOH TB Prevention and Care program for expenses incurred for [Uniting for Ukraine](#) and other [parolee program participants](#) to receive a stand-alone Interferon-Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) test and TB screening. The reimbursable party may be a local health department (LHD), participant, sponsor, or other entity or individual.

Additional details regarding reimbursable expenses can be found in the [reimbursement form](#).

**Please note that all reimbursement requests must be submitted to the IDOH TB Program by Sept. 30.**

Please reach out to a [TB regional nurse consultant/TB program](#) with any questions.

## IDOH Leadership Summit Poster Display

Recently, IDOH held a Leadership Summit at which there was a Poster Exhibition. IDOH staff showcased their research, projects, etc. through posters and presentations. Our very own Biak Chinpar and Scovia Kiwanuka presented a poster titled Aiding Arrivals: TB Prevention Program Support for Ukrainian Parolees & Other Immigrant Populations in Indiana.

**Aiding Arrivals: Tuberculosis Prevention and Care Program Support for Ukrainian Parolees and Other Immigrant Populations in Indiana**  
Biak Chinpar and Scovia Kiwanuka

**Indiana Department of Health**

**Introduction**

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) received federal funds to participate in the Department of Homeland Security's Uniting for Ukraine (U4U) program after its creation in May 2022. This program supports displaced Ukrainians, who were affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The individuals arrived as humanitarian parolees so they could stay temporarily in the United States. The Department of Homeland Security designated the humanitarian parolee category to arrivals from several other countries. The IDOH Tuberculosis Prevention and Care Program in conjunction with the local health departments (LHDs) and refugee screening clinics has worked to provide IGRA testing and other public health services to the humanitarian parolees.

**Participating Countries:** Ukraine, Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela

**Parolee Requirements:** TB screening using an IGRA (age 2 years and older)

**Materials and Methods**

To support parolee health-screening, the Tuberculosis Prevention and Care team established the TB parolee arrival expense reimbursement process that allows LHDs to receive funding using a non-profit partner, Hoosier Uplands. Reimbursement forms were submitted to Indiana LHDs to cover the cost of clinical expenses, transportation, interpretation services, and other outreach activities. The IDOH created guidance sheets for LHDs and refugee clinics, along with an updated website to provide all required documents and connect Ukrainian parolees to the IDOH's Refugee Health Program. The IDOH TB Laboratory also used federal funding to waive the IGRA testing fee of \$20 per test. The IDOH's TB Prevention and Care Program kept track of the number of arrivals through Refugee Health, IDOH TB Laboratory and Hoosier Uplands reimbursement requests.

**Results**

Served 430 parolees (May 2022 - May 2023)

Waived \$3,120 IGRA test fees

Total of \$5,105 spent on parolees

Spent \$1,350 on administrative fees and other public health services

\$635 spent on legal immigration service fees

**Conclusions**

The TB Prevention and Care Program continues to enhance outreach to populations with high TB risk and works with a variety of partners across the state to improve health outcomes. Providing TB preventive care to these populations allows us to draw closer to achieving the mission of the TB Prevention and Care Program: "to progress toward elimination of Tuberculosis by conducting prevention activities through educators, outreach, collaboration and surveillance."

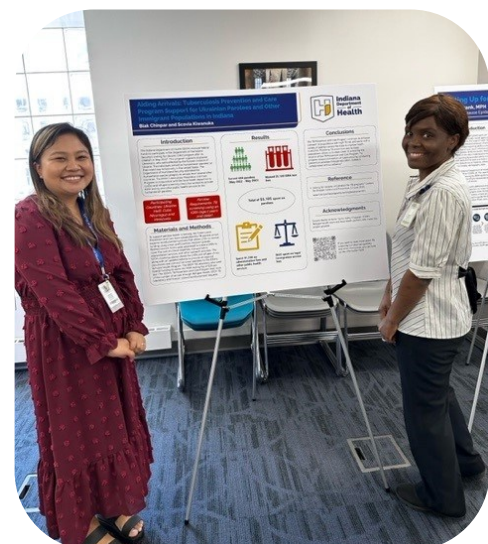
**Reference**

1. Uniting for Ukraine: information for TB programs." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 12 June 2023. [www.Cdc.Gov/tb/programs/unitingforukraine.htm](http://www.Cdc.Gov/tb/programs/unitingforukraine.htm).

**Acknowledgments**

Sincere thanks to Keifer Taylor Kathy Chapuran, IDOH's Refugee Health team and local health partners who made this project possible.

If you want to learn more about TB screening for Ukrainian parolees and other immigrants, you can look up the information here.



## NTCA Conference

The National Tuberculosis Coalition of America (new name! formerly the National TB Controllers Association) - NTCA- hosted the annual National TB Conference in June. This year's theme was Partnership, Innovation, & Equity.

The conference provided a great opportunity to network with colleagues and learn about updates in the TB field.

We are in the process of summarizing key points learned at the conference and scheduling a webinar to share this information with our partners.

NTCA and The Union-North America Region are joining together to host a combined TB conference next year. The conference is scheduled from April 16-19, 2024, in Baltimore, Maryland.



A few of the Indiana attendees at the 2023 National TB Conference.

## Website Updates

The TB portion of the IDOH website was recently restructured and updated to include additional materials to assist LHDs, healthcare providers, and patients access information. Some highlights of the updates include:

- An updated homepage
- A new LHD focused section
- A new patient resource section, including links to translated materials
- An updated healthcare providers section
- A refreshed training and education section
- An updated TB basics section

Over the next few months, we anticipate continuing to add more materials to the website including TB and LTBI Case Management Checklists and a LTBI Provider packet.



## Data Request Reminder

Publicly available Indiana TB data can be found on our website in the [Epidemiology and Statistics](#) section. This includes a [fact sheet for 2022 data](#).

Facilities may need additional data that is not available on the website in order to complete Annual Facility Risk Assessments, for example. Please direct data requests to the TB program main email address: [tbprogram@health.in.gov](mailto:tbprogram@health.in.gov).

# Resource Spotlight

## [CDC LTBI Think, Test, Treat TB Communication & Education Materials](#)

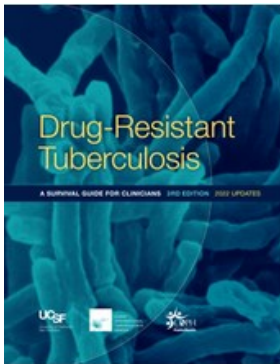
The CDC’s Think, Test, Treat TB partner toolkit provides free resources, including TB messages, digital and print resources, social media content, patient and provider education materials, and other materials for healthcare providers and partners to support TB communication, testing, and treatment efforts.

Materials are available in English, Chinese, Ilocano, Marshallese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

Electronic versions of the materials are available for download, and free printed copies can be ordered at [CDC Publications On-Demand](#).

## [Rutgers Global TB Institute Marshallese video—How TB is spread?](#)

This new video provides information on how TB is spread and explains how you can prevent the spread of TB.



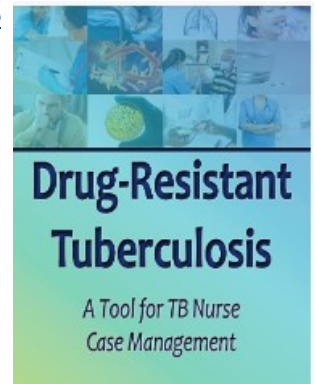
## [Curry International TB Center Drug-Resistant TB: A Survival Guide for Clinicians, 3rd edition/2022 Updates](#)

Earlier this year, Curry released the 3rd edition of their Drug-Resistant TB Guide. The guide covers major topics pertaining to epidemiology, diagnosis, laboratory issues, treatment, medications, pediatrics, co-morbidities, and special situations, monitoring and case management, adverse reactions, and treatment of contacts.

## [Heartland TB Center Drug-Resistant TB: A Tool for TB Nurse Case Management](#)

This resource provides nurses and other healthcare professionals information such as: what, how, who, and where of DR-TB (to include RR-TB, MDR-TB, Pre-XDR-TB, and XDR-TB),

definitions of drug-resistance according to the CDC and WHO, diagnosing DR-TB, treatment options with standardized and individualized regimens, characteristics of second line drugs, case management, monthly monitoring, contact evaluation, and the management of adverse effects and cardiac toxicity.



## [Southeastern National TB Center \(SNTC\) Patient Fact Sheet Series—Rifampin](#)

This flyer was developed for practitioners to educate their patients about the use of rifampin for LTBI treatment. This document is available in English, Arabic, Amharic, Filipino, French, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Hmong, Marshallese, Russian, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

## [SNTC You Can Prevent TB: A Patient Educational Handout](#)

This handout describes the main characteristics of LTBI and TB Disease, as well as their differences. It also describes what increases the risk for developing TB disease and how to prevent TB from developing. This document is available in English, Arabic, Amharic, Cantonese, Chuukese, Dari, Filipino, French, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Hmong, Mandarin, Marshallese, Pashto, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Ukrainian, and Vietnamese.

## [CDC What You Need to Know About the TB Skin Test Fact Sheet](#)

A new fact sheet is available from CDC that describes the TB skin test, includes space to write return appointment details, and explains TB skin test results. English and Spanish versions are available.

