



## Capability Statement

# Ukraine

Tailored Risk Management

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## Nearest centre of medical excellence

Use our emergency app to initiate an emergency response and access our worldwide network of medical assistance care.

For medical evacuations within Ukraine, the recommended Centres of Medical Excellence (CMEs) are:

**Kyiv:** Equipped with 24/7 emergency care, Kyiv's hospitals provide trauma stabilisation, critical care, advanced diagnostics and surgical interventions. The facilities also offer cardiology, orthopaedics and neurological services, making them suitable for complex medical cases.

**Lviv:** Known for its reliable healthcare system, Lviv has tertiary hospitals with 24/7 emergency care. These facilities specialise in critical care, general surgery, internal medicine and paediatrics. Advanced imaging technologies are also available to support diagnosis and treatment.

**Dnipro:** Recognised as a major healthcare hub serving central and eastern regions particularly for those impacted by the ongoing conflict, Dnipro's hospitals operate 24/7 emergency departments. They offer trauma care, intensive care units (ICUs) and rehabilitation services. Specialised departments for cardiovascular care and oncology are also available.

*Note: Due to Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, it is recommended that patients be stabilised and evacuated internationally as soon as possible to Warsaw (Poland) or Berlin (Germany).*

*Constant missile/drone strikes make the situation unpredictable, and no city or location can be guaranteed to remain unaffected.*

## Medical evacuation options

1 Emergency Extraction to Home Nation Treatment	2 Emergency extraction to Closest Specialist Treatment before Repatriation	3 Ground extraction to stabilisation/treatment (In-country no fly)/ Marine or alternative extraction
<p>Ukrainian airspace remains formally closed to all civil aviation due to the risk of missile and drone strikes. Lviv Danylo Halytskyi International Airport is used for staging outbound ground transfers, but the onward flight typically departs from Rzeszów-Jasionka Airport in Poland. This cross-border relay system forms the core of the internationally coordinated evacuation mechanism led by the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the Norwegian government, with support from Germany, Finland and others. Patients are stabilised at regional hospitals and transferred overland by ambulance into Poland with security under secure escort. Polish aircraft availability is consistent, but missions remain weather dependent and subject to delays in Ukraine from security alerts, air defence activity or power outages affecting infrastructure. Movements should be cleared in advance through the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, Ukrainian State Emergency Service and Ukrainian and Polish border authorities. Lviv and Vinnytsia remain the safest and most consistent staging points for outbound transfer.</p>	<p>Emergency extraction to closest specialist treatment before repatriation. Emergency evacuations are initially directed to Centre's of Medical Excellence within Ukraine, including hospitals in Kyiv, Lviv and Dnipro. Dnipro serves as the primary intake centre for casualties from the eastern front. Patients are transferred from high risk or frontline regions to these locations for urgent stabilisation prior to any international movement. Once stabilised, cross-border transfer is coordinated under the EU/Norway medical evacuation programme. Patients are moved via secure ground convoy to humanitarian corridors, with air evacuations launched from Rzeszów (Poland) or Košice (Slovakia). Receiving hospitals in Germany, Norway, the Netherlands and Austria offer advanced care for trauma, burns, paediatrics and oncology. Transfers are prioritised for cases that cannot be managed safely in-country due to power outages, infrastructure damage or proximity to active hostilities. Coordination is managed by involving a joint tasking platform involving the EU, WHO and Ukraine's Ministry of Health. Due to the unpredictable security environment, all international evacuations are recommended as soon as medically appropriate. No facility in Ukraine can be considered consistently secure from strike activity, and delays in transfer may pose additional clinical and operational risk.</p>	<p>Ground ambulance is the primary method of in-country patient movement due to restricted airspace. Wheeled ambulance convoys are routed from field level triage or frontline hospital sites to regional facilities, often passing through combat affected areas under armed security escort. Real time intelligence, road damage assessments and air raid alerts dictate safe corridors. In Russian occupied zones, field stabilisation may occur underground or in mobile trauma shelters due to the threat of missile strikes on hospitals. Once stabilised, patients are transferred westward to hospitals in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk or Chernivtsi, where they await onward evacuation or continue treatment. All movements must be coordinated with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, State Border Guard Service and relevant security actors. Power cuts and road damage may delay movement, and all convoys should include backup communications and redundant navigation. Maritime evacuation from Ukraine is not viable. Ports remain under military control or targeted by missile strikes and Black Sea shipping is constrained by naval operations and minefields. River transport on the Danube is possible in theory from the southwest near Izmil but is rarely used due to security concerns and limited infrastructure. Alternative extraction pathways include overland convoys to NATO territory via Poland, Slovakia, Hungary or Romania. These routes are well established and regularly used for both civilian and medical evacuations, though delays are common due to border congestion or missile alerts. Private air charter companies are operational in neighbouring states and can be used for onward repatriation once the patient reaches EU territory. All non-standard extraction efforts must be coordinated with local embassies and the Ukrainian Civil Aviation Authority.</p>

## Vaccination Requirements

Vaccine	Advice
Routine vaccines recommended (up to date)	Chickenpox (Varicella)
	Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis
	Flu (Influenza)
	Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) Strongly recommended, as Ukraine is under a CDC Level 1 Global Health Alert for Measles
	Polio
	Shingles
COVID-19	Strongly recommended for all travellers
Hepatitis A	Recommended for all travellers
Hepatitis B	Recommended, particularly for those with exposure to blood or bodily fluids
Tick- Borne Encephalitis (TBE)	Recommended for individuals with extensive exposure to ticks, such as those engaging in outdoor activities in forested or rural areas.
Rabies	Strongly recommended due to the presence of rabid dogs. Immediate medical attention is required in case of a bite or scratch, as post-exposure prophylaxis is available but may be limited.

### Special Precautions:

- Airborne and Droplet Infections (*Tuberculosis, COVID-19, Hantavirus, Measles*):**  
 Ukraine has one of the highest rates of *Tuberculosis* in Europe, with *Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis* (MDR-TB) widely reported. Risk is heightened in enclosed or overcrowded settings such as bomb shelters, temporary housing, and under-resourced medical facilities. Long-term deployments should include pre-departure *Tuberculosis* screening and post-deployment follow-up where clinically indicated.  
*COVID-19* remains a moderate risk. Full

vaccination, including boosters, is advised prior to entry.  
*Hantavirus* is present and primarily linked to contact with aerosolised rodent excreta, often in storage sheds, abandoned buildings, or rural dwellings. Travellers should avoid rodent infested environments and ensure food is stored in sealed containers.  
 As of May 2025, Ukraine is listed under the CDC's global Level 1 alert for *Measles* due to ongoing outbreaks. All travellers should be fully immunised with two documented doses of the MMR vaccine. Infants aged 6–

11 months should receive an early dose before travel.

- **Vector-Borne Diseases (*Tick-Borne Encephalitis, Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever*):**

*Tick-Borne Encephalitis* (TBE) is reported in forested oblasts, especially near the Carpathian region. Vaccination is recommended for travellers undertaking outdoor work or recreational activities during spring and summer.

*Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever* (CCHF) is present in parts of Ukraine and is transmitted via tick bites or through contact with infected animals or bodily fluids. Travellers should wear long clothing, apply 60% DEET-based insect repellent, avoid tall grass and conduct daily tick checks when operating in high-risk rural zones. Avoid contact with livestock or unregulated slaughter sites.

- **Water and Soil-Related Infections (*Leptospirosis*):**

*Leptospirosis* is reported following seasonal flooding and in areas with poor drainage and disrupted sanitation. Transmission occurs via skin or mucosal contact with floodwaters or mud contaminated with infected animal urine. Travellers should avoid wading in standing water and wear waterproof boots and gloves during any clean-up or field work. Treated water should be used for drinking and brushing teeth, and lakes or rivers should be avoided for bathing or swimming.

- **Zoonotic Hazards (*Rabies*):**

*Rabies* is an established risk throughout Ukraine, worsened by the increase in stray animal populations due to displacement during the war. Risk is highest in rural areas and urban outskirts. Pre-exposure vaccination is strongly advised for humanitarian workers, veterinarians and long-term deployments. Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is available in major urban centres but may be inaccessible in remote areas. Medical evacuation may be

necessary if exposed in locations without assured access to PEP.

- **Bloodborne Infections (*HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C*):**

Ukraine has one of the highest *HIV* prevalence rates in Europe, compounded by war related disruption to testing, treatment, and harm reduction programmes. While risk to travellers remains low, standard precautions should be followed. These include the use of sterile medical equipment, safe sexual practices and avoidance of blood or bodily fluid exposure.

*Hepatitis B* and *Hepatitis C* risks are elevated in dental and surgical settings without proper regulation.

Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for *HIV* may be available in major cities but should not be relied upon in rural deployments. Medical evacuation may be necessary following significant exposures.

- **Skin Contact Infections (*Antimicrobial Resistance*):**

Antimicrobial-resistant skin infections, including resistant fungal conditions such as *Tinea Corporis*, have been increasingly reported in overcrowded or unhygienic settings such as field shelters and displacement centres. Travellers should avoid sharing towels, razors, bedding, or grooming tools and should seek clinical attention for persistent or worsening skin lesions.

- **Environmental Hazards:**

Missile and drone strikes have caused widespread damage to Ukraine's energy, water and sanitation infrastructure. Power outages, particularly during winter, can last for several days. All deployments should include portable heating options, solar charging systems, water purification supplies and insulated clothing.

Flooding in the eastern and southern oblasts may lead to road closures and increased risk of waterborne infections.

Air quality is often compromised in urban centres due to fires, fuel combustion and

industrial damage.

*Hantavirus* exposure may also increase during flooding or field deployment in rodent infested environments.

It's advisable to use particulate-filtering

masks (N95/FFP2) during high alert periods or in the aftermath of strikes and avoid entering abandoned buildings or confined storage areas without first conducting safety checks.

## Political evacuation options

Ukraine remains under martial law, with ongoing hostilities in the eastern and southern regions and a persistently high risk of missile and drone attacks across the country.

Political evacuations are not feasible by air from within Ukraine due to airspace closures.

All extractions must therefore be ground based and carefully coordinated with security and diplomatic actors.

Lviv remains the primary political evacuation hub for international organisations and embassies, with cross-border transfers routed through the Polish border at Medyka or Korczowa.

Charter and commercial flights are launched from Rzeszów, Kraków or Košice, depending on operational needs.

Out of country hibernation remains the preferred contingency for international personnel, with staging to Poland, Germany, or Romania for onward repatriation.

In-country hibernation remains possible in western Ukraine, but must be supported with independent power, water, fuel and communications capacity. Locations should be distanced from military facilities and missile strike targets.

Ground convoys remain the default movement method and must include updated route assessments, curfew exemptions and security escort.

Border access remains open but may be suspended temporarily during missile alerts or military escalations.

All organisations operating in Ukraine must maintain up to date evacuation SOPs, registration with diplomatic missions and 24/7 security monitoring.

Pre-established safehouses and contingency movement thresholds are essential. Assistance from embassies during periods of martial law or telecommunications blackout cannot be guaranteed

## Passport and Visas

Ukraine permits visa-free entry for citizens of the EU, United States, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom for short stays of up to 90 days within a 180-day period. This regime remains in place despite the war. All visitors must carry a valid passport and are advised to have physical documentation due to the potential for communications blackouts or power outages.

	Visa Required	Passport Required
<b>Other EU</b>	Visa free for 90 days in a 180-day period	Valid at entry and exit + 1 blank page
<b>USA</b>	Visa free for 90 days in a 180-day period	Valid at entry and exit + 1 blank page
<b>Canadian</b>	Visa free for 90 days in a 180-day period	Valid at entry and exit + 1 blank page
<b>Australian</b>	Visa free for 90 days in a 180-day period	Valid at entry and exit + 1 blank page
<b>British</b>	Visa free for 90 days in a 180-day period	Valid at entry and exit + 1 blank page

## Political considerations

<p><b>Local closed sources advisors</b></p>	<p>Reliable security and political intelligence is available through Western embassies, humanitarian agencies and commercial partners in Lviv and Kyiv. However, real time updates are limited in frontline areas and in regions under Russian occupation, where surveillance, communications jamming and disinformation campaigns restrict independent verification</p>
<p><b>Stable political governance</b></p>	<p><b>No</b>, Ukraine remains under martial law nationwide, with President Zelensky exercising executive control alongside military command structures. Civil governance is functional in western and central regions but is heavily disrupted in eastern oblasts affected by occupation or active military operations. Local administrations in recaptured areas operate under temporary military administration. National elections have been suspended until further notice.</p>
<p><b>Kidnap and ransom capability</b></p>	<p><b>Yes (Flown-in)</b>, while kidnap risk is not widespread in western Ukraine, there is an elevated threat of abduction, detention, or disappearance in occupied zones, particularly involving foreign volunteers, journalists or NGO personnel. Abductions have occurred in Russian-occupied territories and are used as political leverage. No standing local K and R teams operate inside Ukraine; any response capability must be flown in under security escort.</p>
<p><b>Significant political events imminent</b></p>	<p><b>Yes, Ongoing</b>, the eastern front continues to shift as Ukraine launches counteroffensive operations in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. Border instability with Belarus and Russia persists and peace negotiations remain stalled. Delays to EU and NATO accession, combined with the indefinite suspension of national elections, continue to create strategic uncertainty. Political rallies and military mobilisation directives are ongoing, and martial law may be extended into 2026.</p>
<p><b>Borders</b></p>	<p>All western land borders with the EU, including Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania, remain open and operational for both civilian and foreign personnel movement. These crossings are routinely used for evacuations, humanitarian relief and medical transfers. However, missile strikes, infrastructure damage and large-scale evacuation surges frequently cause delays or temporary closures. Curfews, vehicle inspections and dynamic security conditions should be expected. The border with Moldova is also open via Odessa oblast but remains sensitive due to the proximity of the unrecognised Transnistrian region. While access is currently possible, route security is not assured in the event of escalation. Entry into Belarus or Russia is categorically not advised and is considered high risk by all Western governments. These borders are effectively closed to foreign travellers, and any</p>

attempted transit carries severe diplomatic and personal risk.

There is no viable movement across the active front lines or into Russian-occupied territories within Ukraine. These areas, including parts of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, are under direct Russian military control and remain inaccessible. Any presence in these zones is subject to significant threat, including missile strikes, artillery fire, detention or targeting. Front line access should not be considered under any circumstances.



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