



Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)

Summary of the 108th meeting, 9 October 2024

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

- ATAGI received an update on the model that is being developed to help inform decisions about the optimal RSV prevention program for Australia, considering both RSV vaccines and monoclonal antibodies.
- ATAGI supports vaccination in older adults to prevent severe disease.

Pneumococcal disease

- ATAGI endorsed the GRADE assessment for Capvaxive (21-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine). Capvaxive will be considered by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) for inclusion on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) at the PBAC's November 2024 meeting.
- ATAGI continued its discussions on an updated pneumococcal vaccination schedule in Australia across the life course. This work is being informed by a model that is being developed to explore the optimal vaccination schedule in all age groups.

COVID-19

- ATAGI reviewed data on currently circulating COVID-19 strains, which include JN.1.
- Australian suppliers have updated their vaccine formulation to include JN.1, and are undergoing [registration with the Therapeutic Goods Administration](#) (TGA). These vaccines will be available from late 2024.
- ATAGI recommends using the latest COVID-19 vaccine formulation available.
- ATAGI endorsed the GRADE assessment on whether people aged 6 months and over should receive a single dose of the updated formulation COVID-19 vaccine following a previous dose in the past 6 to 12 months. This assessment supports ATAGI's [current recommendations on COVID-19 vaccination](#), which remain unchanged.

Influenza

- The Department of Health and Aged Care (the department) and ATAGI will continue to progress next steps and actions following the pandemic planning session at ATAGI's 107th meeting in August 2024.

Pertussis (whooping cough)

- ATAGI reviewed data on the high and increasing notifications of pertussis in Australia. Between January and August 2024, the total number of pertussis notifications was higher than the totals during previous epidemic years.
- ATAGI emphasised the importance of vaccination to protect against pertussis – in particular, for pregnant people to be vaccinated to protect their newborns.
- ATAGI and the department will continue to review data to inform advice.

Department and committee updates

- ATAGI noted that Professor Paul Kelly will retire as Australia's Chief Medical Officer on 21 October 2024. Members expressed their appreciation for Professor Kelly's interest in and engagement with ATAGI, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and wished him well in his retirement.
- ATAGI received an update on the PBAC's recent consideration of vaccines for inclusion on the NIP.
- ATAGI noted a summary of key decisions and deliberations of international technical advisory groups.

Resources

- ATAGI's membership, terms of reference and declaration of interest information is available on the [Department of Health and Aged Care website](#).