

Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)

Summary of the 111th meeting, 19 March 2025

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

- ATAGI endorsed its advice to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) for consideration of nirsevimab for listing on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for prevention of RSV disease in infants and young children.
- Australia's current RSV program includes free RSV vaccine under the NIP for pregnant people from 28 weeks of pregnancy to protect their newborn baby from RSV, and free nirsevimab for eligible infants through state and territory funded programs. These immunisation products will help protect newborn babies from RSV.
- The <u>clinical guidance on RSV immunisation product administration errors</u> provides advice on the management of a range of possible administration errors, including when a repeat dose is needed.

Measles

- ATAGI reviewed data on measles notifications and immunisation coverage in Australia, and also noted measles outbreaks that are occurring in other countries. ATAGI expressed concern that Australia's population immunity to measles is close to falling below the World Health Organization's recommended herd immunity threshold of 93–95%.
- ATAGI emphasised the importance of receiving every dose of every vaccine in the childhood schedule on time to protect young children against serious diseases.

Japanese encephalitis (JE)

• ATAGI endorsed changes to the JE chapter of the Australian Immunisation Handbook, which will be updated on the Handbook website when finalised.

Other ATAGI business

• ATAGI endorsed its annual statement on immunisation for 2025. This publication includes an overview of immunisation in 2024, as well as challenges and priorities for ATAGI in 2025. It will be published on the Health website.

Resources

• ATAGI's membership, terms of reference and declaration of interest information is available on the <u>Department of Health and Aged Care website</u>.