



# Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)

## Summary of the 117th meeting, 20 and 21 November 2025

### Measles

- ATAGI finalised their review of the primary measles schedule, and determined that no changes would be made at this time.
- However, ATAGI endorsed revised wording for recommendations relating to international travel in infants.
  - Specifically, the recommendation for infants aged 6 to 11 months to receive an additional dose of a measles-containing vaccine when travelling overseas has been broadened to apply to all international destinations, irrespective of measles endemicity or outbreak status.
- The Australian Immunisation Handbook will be updated shortly to reflect this change. See the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) for more details.

### Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

- ATAGI reviewed the draft GRADE evidence to decision framework for RSV vaccines in older adults, as well as data on RSV vaccination in pregnancy, outcomes of which will be published in early 2026.
- ATAGI received a presentation from The Kids Research Institute on the impact of RSV immunisation in Western Australia.
- Australia's RSV prevention program includes free RSV vaccine (Abrysvo) under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) for pregnant people from 28 weeks of pregnancy, and free nirsevimab (a long-acting monoclonal antibody against RSV) for eligible infants through state and territory funded programs. These immunisation products help protect newborn babies from RSV. [ATAGI's recommendations for RSV prevention](#) are on the Australian Immunisation Handbook website.

### Pertussis

- ATAGI reviewed data on notifications and hospitalisations for pertussis, as well as vaccine uptake and timeliness of doses.
- ATAGI noted that the dose of pertussis vaccine given during pregnancy is very effective at preventing pertussis in infants.
- ATAGI emphasised the importance of receiving [every vaccine dose in the schedule on time](#) to help protect against serious disease. Data on immunisation coverage for pertussis and other vaccines is available on the [department website](#).

## Influenza

- ATAGI noted that [Flumist nasal spray vaccine](#) has been registered with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for use in children aged 2 to ≤17 years.
- ATAGI reviewed and endorsed the GRADE evidence to decision framework for Flumist. Updates to the [influenza chapter of the Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) for the 2026 influenza season will be made in early 2026.

## COVID-19

- ATAGI noted that public consultation on the [COVID-19 chapter of the Handbook](#) had occurred in June and July 2025 and attracted responses from 69 individuals. ATAGI reviewed a summary of the public consultation responses and the proposed updates to the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

## Dengue

- ATAGI reviewed data on dengue vaccine safety and efficacy. There are currently no dengue vaccines currently registered in Australia.

## Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV)

- ATAGI received an update from the joint ATAGI and Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) working group on ABLV. The working group is reviewing information to determine any updates to the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

## Herpes zoster (shingles)

- ATAGI received a presentation on the increased risk of dementia after an episode of shingles, and studies suggesting a reduced risk of dementia among people who received Shingrix vaccine. The data are preliminary and more studies are underway.
- [Shingrix vaccine is available for free under the NIP](#) for adults aged 65 years and over, First Nations adults aged 50 years and over, and adults aged 18 years and over who have medical risk conditions.

## Departmental updates

- ATAGI was pleased to note that the [legislation to establish the Australian Centre for Disease Control \(CDC\) had passed](#). The Australian CDC will start as a standalone agency on 1 January 2026.
- ATAGI received an update from the TGA on vaccines that are currently under evaluation for [registration in Australia](#).
- ATAGI received an update from the Communicable Disease Network Australia (CDNA) on notifications of vaccine-preventable diseases in Australia and overseas.

## Other ATAGI business

- ATAGI welcomed a delegation from the Philippines, who had been invited to observe this meeting. ATAGI was honoured to host the delegation and emphasised the importance of collaboration with national immunisation technical advisory groups (NITAGs) in our region.

- ATAGI received a presentation on the national immunisation program in the Philippines, as well as strategies to strengthen governance and implementation of immunisation in the Philippines.
- ATAGI reviewed and discussed its advice to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee for upcoming immunisation products.
- ATAGI noted a summary from the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance on key topics discussed by other NITAGs in their recent meetings, as well as data on zoster vaccine uptake, mpox, RSV immunisation and measles.

## Resources

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