



Australian Government

Department of Health,  
Disability and Ageing

## AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON IMMUNISATION (ATAGI)

### STATEMENT

Issue date: Version 1.1, 11 January 2026

## COUNTERFEIT RABIES VACCINE (ABHAYRAB®) REPORTED IN INDIA: GUIDANCE FOR TRAVELLERS AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

### Overview

- The pharmaceutical manufacturer *Indian Immunologicals Limited* has reported that a counterfeit (fake) batch of the rabies vaccine **Abhayrab®** has been circulating in India since 2023<sup>1</sup>.
  - One batch of Abhayrab® vaccine vials has been affected – **KA24014**.
- The fake vaccine differs from the registered vaccine in formulation, packaging, labelling, and manufacturing<sup>1</sup>.
- People who received the fake vaccine may not be fully protected against rabies and are advised to get replacement doses to ensure they are adequately protected.
- The probability that an Australian traveller to India will be adversely affected is low. However, a precautionary approach is being taken due to the potentially high severity of impact associated with inadequate rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Additionally, while infection with rabies is fatal, it is important to note that rabies disease after a potential exposure remains very rare among travellers.

### Who may be affected?

- Travellers to India may be affected if they:
  - Received rabies vaccine **in India** from 1 November 2023 onwards, **and**
  - were administered one or more doses of **Abhayrab® batch no. KA24014 or where the batch number is unknown**, or if the **vaccine brand administered is unknown**<sup>2</sup>.

### Recommended actions

#### For people who have returned to Australia from India

- Because it is difficult to confirm whether a genuine or fake product was used, any dose of Abhayrab® where the batch is unknown or is KA24014, or any dose where the brand is

<sup>1</sup> Indian Immunologicals Limited. 23/3/25. Reporting of counterfeit version of Rabies Vaccine (Abhayrab), Batch No. KA24014 – Reg. Available at: [https://drugscontrol.org/pdf/couneterfeit\\_abhayrab\\_merged.pdf](https://drugscontrol.org/pdf/couneterfeit_abhayrab_merged.pdf) - Accessed 15/12/2025

<sup>2</sup> Valid vaccine doses given in India which are compatible with Australian vaccines are Vaxirab-N, RABIVAX-S, Lyssavac, Vaxirab and Indirab. Abhayrab doses are also considered valid where the batch number is confirmed and is not KA24104. See also [Table. Rabies vaccines available globally, and compatibility with vaccines registered in Australia | The Australian Immunisation Handbook](#)

unknown that meets the criteria above should be considered invalid and replaced with a rabies vaccine registered in Australia.

- Affected travellers should consult a healthcare provider, who can help them identify invalid doses and complete a valid course.

#### For healthcare providers

- Where a vaccine was administered in India, replace any dose(s) of **Abhayrab®** (where the batch number is **unknown or is batch KA24014**) and/or any dose(s) where the vaccine brand was unknown, with dose(s) of a valid rabies vaccine registered in Australia (Rabipur® or Verorab®). See **Table 1** for further detail.

**Table 1: Rabies vaccine scenarios and recommended provider actions\***

Scenario	Recommended Action
All doses received are considered invalid	Restart full post-exposure prophylaxis course with an Australian registered vaccine (Rabipur® or Verorab®)
Some doses received are considered invalid	Ignore invalid doses; count valid doses <sup>3^</sup> and resume schedule from last valid dose with a registered vaccine (Rabipur® or Verorab®)

\*Note that human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) does not need to be replaced.

^Valid vaccine doses given **in India** which are compatible with Australian vaccines are **Vaxirab-N, RABIVAX-S, Lyssavac, Vaxirab** and **Indirab**. Abhayrab doses are also considered valid where the batch number is confirmed and is not KA24104.

#### For people travelling to India

- Avoid contact with animals when travelling to countries where rabies occurs.
- Anyone who is scratched, bitten or exposed to the saliva of an animal should:
- seek immediate medical care and,
  - where possible, request a vaccine [compatible with Australian-registered rabies vaccines](#).
- Be aware of the potential for fake vaccines and keep detailed records of any vaccines received outside of Australia, including dates, product names, and batch numbers.
  - Where possible, take a photo of the vaccine packaging and label.
- Upon returning to Australia, follow up with your healthcare provider to discuss if any additional doses are required.
- People should consider getting pre-exposure rabies vaccination prior to travel. This reduces the number of vaccine doses needed if exposed and simplifies post-exposure prophylaxis.

#### **Important notes:**

- Abhyrab® is not available in Australia.
- People **not** affected by this alert include those who:
  - completed their full rabies vaccine course in a country other than India, including Australia;

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<sup>3</sup> See Australian Immunisation Handbook. 9/10/24. [Table. Rabies vaccines available globally, and compatibility with vaccines registered in Australia | The Australian Immunisation Handbook](#). Accessed 15/12/2025

- were in India from 1 November 2023 but have evidence that the doses received were either not from the affected batch (KA24014) or were a vaccine other than Abhayrab®.
- ATAGI will continue to review the evidence for fake rabies vaccines circulating overseas, and will update this guidance if required.

Further information on rabies pre and post exposure rabies immunisation, including vaccines available in Australia and overseas can be viewed in the [Australian Immunisation Handbook Chapter on rabies and other lyssaviruses](#).