



Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)

Summary of the 121st meeting, 15 April 2026

Diphtheria

- ATAGI received updates on recent cases of cutaneous and respiratory diphtheria in the Northern Territory and Western Australia, including a [epidemiological update on diphtheria](#) published by the [Australian Centre for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) and a genomic analysis of case sequences from [AusTrakka](#).
- This followed an extraordinary ATAGI meeting on 2 April 2026, where ATAGI developed interim advice on vaccination in outbreak settings for impacted jurisdictions.
- ATAGI received an update from the newly established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Immunisation Equity subgroup, which aims to review and progress immunisation priorities and opportunities for First Nations people. The subgroup includes representation from the [National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation \(NACCHO\)](#). The subgroup's first meeting had focused on diphtheria.
- ATAGI noted work underway by the [Communicable Diseases Network Australia \(CDNA\)](#) on national coordination of the surveillance and response to diphtheria cases. A new diphtheria Series of National Guidelines (SoNG) will be developed by the CDNA.
- ATAGI discussed the role of vaccination in the diphtheria outbreak, including potential for mass or community-wide vaccination campaigns, and population immunity thresholds.
- ATAGI established a diphtheria subgroup to evaluate the evidence and develop advice from ATAGI on the role of vaccines in preventing further cases. Further work from ATAGI and other groups will be guided by the department and the CDC.

Respiratory viruses

- ATAGI reviewed and endorsed parameters for evaluating influenza–COVID-19 combination vaccines. This advice will be shared with sponsors of these combination vaccines, vaccine evaluation groups and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC).
- ATAGI received a presentation from Sanofi on the real-world effectiveness of nirsevimab (long-acting RSV monoclonal antibody) in infants.
- ATAGI discussed the optimal RSV prevention program for infants in Australia and the roles of RSV vaccines and monoclonal antibodies.
- ATAGI reviewed data on the disease burden of RSV in adults aged 18 to 49 years with and without medical risk conditions.

- [ATAGI's recommendations for RSV prevention](#) are on the Australian Immunisation Handbook website.

Dengue

- ATAGI noted the recent registration of [Qdenga dengue vaccine](#) by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and reviewed the summary of findings from a GRADE assessment.

Meningococcal disease

- ATAGI reviewed and discussed an evidence review on the use of meningococcal ACWY vaccines in infants.

Other ATAGI business

- ATAGI reviewed and discussed its advice to the PBAC for upcoming immunisation products.

Resources

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