



Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)

Summary of the 123rd meeting, 30 and 31 July 2026

Diphtheria

- ATAGI noted that the number of new diphtheria cases being reported each week is decreasing. The latest epidemiological updates are available on the [Australian Centre for Disease Control \(CDC\) website](#).
- ATAGI received an update from the Diphtheria Subgroup, including work that is underway to review the diphtheria chapter of the Australian Immunisation Handbook, and future work in coordination with other groups.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

- ATAGI held a focus session on HPAI, including updates from the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza, the Australian CDC, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), and industry sponsors of relevant pre-pandemic or pandemic influenza vaccines.
- More information on HPAI in Australia is available on the [Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website](#) and the [Australian CDC website](#). The CDC also recently published the [National plan for the surveillance of avian influenza for human health](#).

Hepatitis B

- ATAGI reviewed data and information on the dose of hepatitis B vaccine that is given to all newborns in Australia at birth.
- Preventing transmission of hepatitis B from a pregnant individual with hepatitis B infection to their infant requires a cascade of care that includes screening all pregnant people, access to antiviral treatment during pregnancy, hepatitis B vaccine and immunoglobulin for the infant at birth, and linking both mother and baby into care after delivery.
- While the rate of antenatal screening is high in Australia, ATAGI noted that there is no coordinated national program to monitor antenatal screening, coverage of the birth dose of hepatitis B vaccine or follow-up of parents with hepatitis B. These data gaps mean that transmission of hepatitis B from parents to infants cannot be accurately measured in Australia.

ATAGI concluded that at this time universal hepatitis B vaccination should continue in Australia as a core part of Australia's hepatitis B prevention program. This is critical to Australia's strategic goal of eliminating hepatitis B by 2030.

More information is available in ATAGI's [statement on the importance and safety of hepatitis B vaccine at birth](#).

Mpox

- ATAGI reviewed data on mpox epidemiology in Australia, including case notifications, vaccination status and time since last vaccination.
- ATAGI will conduct a detailed review of the evidence on mpox vaccination to inform potential updates to vaccination recommendations.

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)

- ATAGI received a presentation from the UK Health Security Agency on modelling of the burden of RSV disease in older adults with risk conditions and estimates of cost-effectiveness in the UK context.
- ATAGI reviewed the summary of findings of a GRADE assessment on the use of RSV vaccine in adults aged 18 to 49 years.

Australian bat lyssavirus (ABLV)

- ATAGI received an update from the joint ATAGI and Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) working group on ABLV. Following an extensive review, the working group is updating the post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) recommendations. The updated recommendations will be published in the Australian Immunisation Handbook shortly.

Dengue

- ATAGI reviewed and discussed the GRADE evidence-to-decision assessment for Qdenga dengue vaccine. ATAGI is developing a statement on the use of dengue vaccine in the Australian context soon followed by public consultation on the draft recommendations and development of a dengue chapter of the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

Vaccine confidence

- ATAGI reviewed a summary of data from the [National Vaccination Insights project](#) for 2025. ATAGI noted an increase in many acceptance barriers between 2024 and 2025 among parents of partially vaccinated children, and significant parental concerns about vaccine safety and trust in the information provided by their doctor or nurse. Access barriers were more stable and had not increased.
- These data are available from the 2024 and 2025 surveys for [childhood vaccination](#) (routine National Immunisation Program and influenza vaccines) and [adult influenza vaccination](#), as well as [strategies to address barriers to vaccination](#).
- It is apparent that Immunisation providers need clear information and the vaccine communication skills to guide discussions with consumers and help them make informed decisions. The [Sharing Knowledge about Immunisation \(SKAI\) website](#) provides credible information about vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases and guidance for providers on how to have effective conversations with community members and healthcare professionals

ATAGI publications

- ATAGI reviewed and discussed the timeline for future updates to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#).
- ATAGI reviewed and discussed information on serological testing to inform vaccination against varicella. This review will inform potential future updates to the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

Departmental updates

- ATAGI received an update from the TGA on vaccines that are currently under evaluation for [registration in Australia](#).

Other ATAGI business

- ATAGI was honoured to host a delegation from the Laos PDR to observe the meeting and noted the importance of collaboration with national immunisation technical advisory groups (NITAGs) in our region. ATAGI received a presentation on the Lao NITAG and immunisation landscape.
- ATAGI received an update from its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Immunisation Equity Subgroup. ATAGI acknowledged the importance of the subgroup's work and discussed how best to integrate this work – and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and priorities more broadly – into ATAGI's deliberations in a sustainable way.
- ATAGI received an update from its newly established Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Subgroup.
- ATAGI noted a summary from NCIRS on key topics discussed by other NITAGs in their recent meetings, as well as data on safety and coverage of influenza vaccines in 2026.
- ATAGI reviewed a dashboard of vaccines in the development pipeline.
- ATAGI received an update on upcoming changes to due and overdue rules for adolescent vaccination in the Australian Immunisation Register.
- ATAGI received a presentation on research into the immunomodulatory effects of vaccines.
- ATAGI's terms of reference include providing advice to research funding bodies regarding the status of current immunisation research and areas where additional research is required. ATAGI discussed a process for identifying, deciding on and publishing research priorities.

Resources

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