

**Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)
71st meeting
18 October 2019**

ATAGI BULLETIN

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) 71st meeting was held by videoconference on 18 October 2019.

Influenza

- ATAGI reviewed epidemiological data from the 2019 influenza season in Australia. The 2019 season started early and was characterized by a long period of elevated transmission, although there was substantial variation in season length among states and territories. The season was dominated by influenza A/H3. The peak rate of laboratory-confirmed influenza and influenza-like illness were moderate compared with recent years. The clinical severity of hospitalised cases was low/moderate.
- ATAGI provided advice to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee on influenza vaccines under the National Immunisation Program for children and people aged over 65 years.

Meningococcal disease

- ATAGI reviewed data on uptake and safety of the meningococcal B vaccination program in South Australia. Uptake was high in all eligible cohorts and rates of adverse events were not different to expected.
- ATAGI reviewed data on uptake of meningococcal ACWY vaccine in Western Australia. Data showed that extending the catch-up program to 2 years instead of 1 year was beneficial to maximise uptake, including in children at higher risk and those with access difficulties.
- ATAGI provided advice to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee on meningococcal B vaccines.

Other issues in immunisation

- ATAGI noted a summary of recent deliberations and recommendations from key national immunisation technical advisory groups (NITAGs) of interest from the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS).

Notes and resources

- ATAGI's membership, terms of reference and conflict of interest information are available on the [Department of Health website](#).
- The digital [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) is available on the Department's website.
- The summary of decisions of key immunisation technical advisory groups of interest report will be available on the [NCIRS website](#).

- Information on NITAGs worldwide is available on the [NITAG Resource Centre website](#).
- Next ATAGI meeting: 12 December 2019, face to face in Canberra. The [meeting agenda](#) will be published on the Department of Health website shortly before the meeting.