



## Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) 83rd meeting, 15 October 2021

Agenda item	Purpose	Discussion and outcomes
<b>1. Welcome and apologies, general committee business</b>	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted.</li> </ul>
<b>2. National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance report</b>	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATAGI received an update from the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance.</li> <li>ATAGI noted the summary report of decisions of key immunisation technical advisory groups around the world.</li> <li>ATAGI discussed the outcomes of a risk–benefit review of Zostavax (live attenuated herpes zoster vaccine). The review noted that there continues to be a low level of inadvertent administration of Zostavax to immunocompromised people, and that this can sometimes result in serious harm. ATAGI discussed potential options for more education about this vaccine to be developed for providers.</li> <li>ATAGI encourages immunisation providers to use the <a href="#">Zostavax screening tool</a> in the <a href="#">Australian Immunisation Handbook</a> (the Handbook) to help guide their decisions, as well as ATAGI’s <a href="#">statement on the clinical use of zoster vaccine in older adults</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Australian Immunisation Handbook</b>	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATAGI noted that information on COVID-19 will be added to the Handbook. At this stage, the Handbook will contain basic information about COVID-19 and available vaccines, and direct users to more details on the <a href="#">Department of Health website</a>.</li> <li>ATAGI noted that an updated version of the <a href="#">National Immunisation Catch-up Calculator</a> will be launched soon.</li> <li>ATAGI discussed proposed updates to the zoster chapter of the Handbook.</li> <li>ATAGI reviewed updated GRADE assessments for influenza vaccines.</li> <li>ATAGI discussed progress on the GRADE assessment for booster doses of meningococcal B vaccines, which will inform future updates to the Handbook.</li> <li>ATAGI noted and discussed insights on the Handbook from a First Nations perspective, and acknowledged the importance of incorporating cultural sensitivity and a strengths-based approach in the Handbook and in all of ATAGI’s work.</li> </ul>

Endorse: a decision is to be made at this meeting  
 Discuss: a decision is to be made at a future meeting or out of session  
 Information: no decision points at this stage



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<b>4. Department updates</b> 4.1. Immunisation and Communicable Diseases Branch update 4.2. Therapeutic Goods Administration / Advisory Committee on Vaccines update 4.3. Communicable Diseases Network Australia update	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ATAGI was informed that the <a href="#">shingles vaccination catch-up program had been extended</a>. Shingles vaccine is free for people aged 70. Under the catch-up program, people aged 71 to 79 can continue to receive a free dose of zoster vaccine until 31 October 2023.</li> <li>• ATAGI received an update from the Therapeutic Goods Administration on regulatory issues relating to vaccines.</li> <li>• ATAGI received an update from the CDNA on vaccine-preventable disease notifications from 1 January to 24 September 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>5. ATAGI business</b>	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ATAGI's <a href="#">2021 annual statement on immunisation</a> was published on the Health website. This statement highlights the key successes, trends and challenges in the use of vaccines and control of vaccine-preventable diseases in Australia in 2020. It also signals ATAGI's priority actions for addressing key issues for 2021 and beyond.</li> <li>• ATAGI reviewed and discussed the draft 2022 annual statement on immunisation.</li> <li>• ATAGI reviewed progress on a targeted review of COVID-19 for future publication.</li> <li>• ATAGI received an update on influenza epidemiology and vaccination coverage. Influenza virus circulation was very limited in 2020 and 2021, and vaccination coverage was lower in 2021 than in 2020. This means that many people may be susceptible to influenza in the 2022 season, especially young children and older adults. Opening the international borders will also potentially see an increase in influenza and other vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs). ATAGI discussed messages to address this in the 2022 influenza statement.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Meeting wrap up</b>	Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next ATAGI meeting is scheduled for 10 December 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Meeting close</b>		

## Notes and resources

- ATAGI's membership, terms of reference and declaration of interest information are available on the [Department of Health website](#).
- The digital [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#) is available on the Health website.



- A summary report of decisions of key immunisation technical advisory groups of interest will be available on the [NCIRS website](#).
- Information on NITAGs worldwide is available on the [NITAG Resource Centre website](#).
- Next ATAGI meeting: 10 December 2021, by videoconference.