

**Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)
72nd meeting
12 December 2019**

ATAGI Bulletin

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) 72nd meeting was held on 12 December 2019 in Canberra.

Special risk groups

- ATAGI endorsed terms of reference for the Special Risk Groups Working Party to progress activities to promote and facilitate access to vaccines for vulnerable groups under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

Influenza

- ATAGI reviewed the draft influenza statement for 2020, and the revised influenza chapter of the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

Australian Immunisation Handbook

- ATAGI discussed and endorsed a document for public consultation on changes to the recommendations for pneumococcal vaccines. Public consultation on these changes is expected to occur in early 2020. ATAGI encourages interested people to make submissions through the Department's [Consultation Hub](#).
- ATAGI reviewed the prototype of the national catch-up calculator for NIP vaccines. ATAGI was also pleased to review progress on development of the Handbook app, which will allow the Handbook to be available offline.
- ATAGI continued discussions about implementing the GRADE framework for Handbook recommendations.

Immunisation communication

- ATAGI endorsed a pathway for the Department to develop and evaluate an ATAGI strategic engagement strategy. Updates on the strategy and associated activities will be presented to ATAGI in 2020 as part of ATAGI's strategic planning.
- ATAGI was pleased to note the upcoming communication campaigns for immunisation that are planned by the Department, and looks forward to seeing the impact.

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).

- ATAGI discussed the current measles outbreak in Samoa and other countries in the region. ATAGI noted the important role Australia can play in capacity-building in the medium and long term, given the small number of NITAGs in the region.
- ATAGI was informed of the development of the National Preventive Health Strategy, which aims to build on existing strategies for a range of preventive health issues (including immunisation, cancer screening, tobacco control, obesity, nutrition and physical activity, and others). A draft strategy is planned for public consultation in early 2020.
- ATAGI heard a report from a recent meeting on HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine implementation in the Asia–Pacific region, which involved 17 countries. It was noted that Australia was the first country in the world to include HPV vaccine on the national immunisation schedule and, within the next 5 years, will be the first country in the world to meet the definition of eliminating cervical cancer.

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: 20 and 21 February 2020, face to face in Canberra. The [meeting agenda](#) will be published on the Department of Health website shortly before the meeting.