

Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI)

41st Meeting

15 - 16 October 2009

ATAGI BULLETIN

- The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) 41st face to face meeting was held on 15-16 October 2009 in Canberra.
- The ATAGI members endorsed the ATAGI Standard Operating Procedures.
- The ATAGI members endorsed the Revaccination Working Party Terms of Reference and are currently developing guidelines on the need for revaccination following administration of potentially compromised vaccinations, for the use of jurisdictions.
- The ATAGI Influenza Working Party requested further work be done on the feasibility of implementing an influenza vaccination program in the under 5 year age group.
- The ATAGI members discussed the epidemiology and ongoing surveillance requirements of Haemophilus influenzae type b and meningococcal disease and the implications for future combination conjugate vaccines.
- The ATAGI members reviewed the current pertussis epidemic and noted the vaccine continues to be highly effective. ATAGI will continue to review evidence on the current immunisation schedule for children and the effectiveness of vaccines in adolescents and adults nationally. Development of a systematic approach of providing guidance to parents, childcare and health care workers on vaccination strategies for the prevention of pertussis infection is being examined.
- ATAGI has recommended that the scheduled fourth dose of pertussis vaccine can be administered from the age of three years and six months, and that the adolescent booster dose can be given in the first year of high school, that is from 11 year of age. This will better protect siblings, especially newborns.
- The ATAGI members endorsed changes to the chapters of the Immunisation Handbook referring to combined measles, mumps, rubella and varicella vaccines (MMRV) to ensure consistent recommendations that MMRV is administered at 18 months of age.
- ATAGI members have developed advice on H1N1:
 - Guideline for the administration of pandemic (H1N1) influenza vaccine from multi-dose vials (MDV).
 - ATAGI statement: Use of multi-dose vials in vaccination programs.
 - ATAGI advice regarding the use of influenza vaccines containing thiomersal (including pregnancy).
 - ATAGI statement regarding influenza, influenza vaccines and Guillain-Barré Syndrome.
 - ATAGI guidance on use of latex-containing 1mL syringes from pandemic vaccination packs.

<http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/Content/national-vaccination-program#atagi>
- ATAGI is currently finalising advice on the rollout of the H1N1 vaccine program on severity of disease and disease modelling.