

Public Health Clinical alert

23 December 2025

Counterfeit rabies vaccine in India

Key information

- The [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation \(ATAGI\)](#) have been alerted to counterfeit batches of **Abhayrab® rabies vaccine** circulating in **India** since **1 November 2023**.
- People who have received Abhayrab® in India may require replacement rabies vaccine doses.
- The Health and Community Services Directorate is contacting and assessing individuals who have had known rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) commenced in India and completed in Australia and who meet the criteria below. HCSD will arrange for these individuals to receive additional PEP vaccine doses.
- Individuals who have completed an entire course of rabies vaccine PEP in India, or those who received rabies vaccine in India as pre-exposure prophylaxis, may not be identifiable to HCSD and may seek advice directly from a healthcare provider.
- Please contact HCSD Public Health Response Unit (PHRU) on (02) 5124 9213 or after hours on (02) 9962 4155 for advice and to facilitate access to PEP.

Current situation

- Counterfeit Abhayrab® rabies vaccines have been circulating in India since 1 November 2023. Abhayrab® is not available in Australia.
- The counterfeit product may not confer adequate protection against rabies and should not be considered a valid dose.
- Because it is difficult to tell whether the genuine or fake Abhayrab® product was used, as a precaution anyone who was administered Abhayrab® or an unknown brand of rabies vaccine in India from 1 November 2023 should be considered to have had the counterfeit vaccine.
- People who completed their full rabies vaccine course in a country other than India, including Australia, are not affected by this alert.

Who may be impacted?

- People are impacted if they:
 - Received rabies vaccine in India from 1 November 2023 onwards, AND
 - were administered one or more doses of **Abhayrab®**, or the **vaccine brand administered is unknown**.

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Recommendations

- Individuals who meet the above criteria will need replacement doses with a valid rabies vaccine registered in Australia (Rabipur® or Verorab®). See [ATAGI advice](#) for further information, and contact HCSD Public Health Response Unit for advice and to facilitate access to PEP.
- People with documented dose(s) of a different brand of rabies vaccine in India do not need replacement PEP vaccine doses.
- Rabies vaccine PEP is funded by HCSD, although healthcare providers may choose to charge a consultation fee. Pre-exposure vaccination is privately funded.

Information for travellers

- Travellers to rabies-enzootic regions should be counselled on rabies prevention, how to manage a potential exposure and if indicated, offered pre-exposure prophylaxis prior to travel.
- Advise travellers to:
 - Keep detailed records of any vaccines received outside of Australia, including dates, product names, and batch numbers. Where possible, take a photo of the vaccine packaging and labelling.
 - On return to Australia, follow-up with their healthcare provider to discuss if any additional doses are needed.

Rabies & other lyssaviruses

- Rabies transmission to humans is rare and preventable with PEP following a potential exposure. PEP is recommended to be given as soon as possible.
- The incubation period for rabies can be prolonged and ranges from a few days to many years. It is important for PEP to be given even if some time has elapsed since exposure.

Resources

- [Rabies and other lyssaviruses | The Australian Immunisation Handbook](#)
- [Rabies and Australian Bat Lyssavirus - ACT Government](#)

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