



## Topic Brief: Chewing Gum for COVID-19 Prevention

**Date:** 12/09/2020

**Nomination Number:** 0941

**Purpose:** This document summarizes the information addressing a nomination submitted on July 27, 2020 through the Effective Health Care Website. This information was used to inform the Evidence-based Practice Center (EPC) Program decisions about whether to produce an evidence report on the topic, and if so, what type of evidence report would be most suitable.

**Issue:** The nominator proposes the use of chewing gum or other oral apparatuses to prevent the production of respiratory droplets containing the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), which contribute to the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

**Program Decision:** The EPC program synthesizes and appraises existing evidence, and does not support primary research. As such, this nomination does not meet the criteria for appropriateness.

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### Assessment Methods

We assessed nomination for priority for a systematic review or other AHRQ EHC report with a hierarchical process using established selection criteria. Assessment of each criteria determined the need to evaluate the next one.

1. Determine the *appropriateness* of the nominated topic for inclusion in the EHC program.
2. Establish the overall *importance* of a potential topic as representing a health or healthcare issue in the United States.
3. Determine the *desirability of new evidence review* by examining whether a new systematic review or other AHRQ product would be duplicative.
4. Assess the *potential impact* a new systematic review or other AHRQ product.
5. Assess whether the *current state of the evidence* allows for a systematic review or other AHRQ product (feasibility).
6. Determine the *potential value* of a new systematic review or other AHRQ product.

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**Conflict of Interest:** None of the investigators have any affiliations or financial involvement that conflicts with the material presented in this report.

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