Determining need for a review

Clarify the issue or decision to be informed

Avoid duplication of effort: Identify and appraise existing reviews for currency, credibility and comprehensiveness

Access and assess existing evidence syntheses

Identify ongoing evidence syntheses

If you identified a current, credible and comprehensive review

If you identified an existing review but it is not current, credible or comprehensive

If you found no existing reviews, conduct a new review

Use review to inform decisions

Update an out-of-date review

Consider replication

- Contact authors to determine their plans to update
- Assemble an appropriate team
- Consider guidance for updating a review
- Plan methods and search for the update

- Identify the research question and most appropriate approach
- Assemble an appropriate team
- Use digital applications and 'crowd'
- Register the review protocol
- Search best sources of primary studies
- Conduct and report the review using robust methods

Conduct the review or update

Decision point in algorithm	Algorithm points to...	Existing digital tools to support decision point	Opportunity for digital support
DETERMINING NEED FOR NEW REVIEW			
Clarify the issue or decision to be informed	*Taxonomy inventory*		
Avoid duplication of effort: * Access existing reviews*	*Databases of existing syntheses*	*Enhance my RIS to facilitate search across databases*	
Avoid duplication of effort: * Assess currency, credibility and comprehensiveness of existing reviews*	*Assessment tools*		
Avoid duplication of effort: * Identify on-going evidence synthesis*	*Multiple lists of on-going syntheses*		
IF REVIEW IS NOT CURRENT, CREDIBLE OR COMPREHENSIVE			
Update out-of-date review	*Checklist and resource on when and how to update SRs*		
Consider replication			
Contact authors to determine plan to update			
Assemble an appropriate team			
Consider guidance for conducting a review			
Plan methods and carry out search			
IF NO REVIEW IDENTIFIED, CONDUCT NEW REVIEW			
Determine research question and most appropriate approach	*Review type decision making resources*		
Assemble an appropriate team			
Use digital applications and "crowd"	*Lists of digital tools to support study identification and data extraction*	*Covidence* *Distiller SR* *Epistemonikos/L*VE* *EPPI Reviewer* *JBI SUMARI* *Review Manager*	

		SRDR *Rayyan* *RCT Classifier* *RobotReviewer*	
Register the review protocol	*Points to PROSPERO, Campbell, Cochrane registries*		
Search best sources of primary studies	*Databases of COVID-specific primary studies*	*Enhance my RIS to facilitate search across databases*	
Conduct and report review using robust methods	*Guidance and reporting standards for various types of reviews*		