Your patch test result indicates that you have a contact allergy to propolis. This contact allergy may cause your skin to react when it is exposed to this substance although it may take several days for the symptoms to appear. Typical symptoms include redness, swelling, itching and fluid-filled blisters.

Where is propolis found?
Propolis is a wax-like resinous substance produced by the honeybee (Apis mellifera). Propolis is considered a traditional medicine by many and is used for a variety of conditions, including inflammations, sore throat, viral diseases, ulcers, burn and wound care, to promote heart health, cataracts, acne, asthma, arthritis, boils, bleeding gums, bedsores and blisters, burning tongue, callused feet, common colds, corns, diaper rash, diarrhea, eczema, flu, female complaints, gastritis, gout, hay-fever, hair loss, insect bites, rhinitis, earache, inflammation of the prostate, moles, psoriasis, swollen glands, tendonitis, and warts. Depending upon its composition, propolis may is also used as an antibiotic, antifungal, antimicrobial, and an immunomodulator. Recent dental research indicates that it may protect against caries and canker sores, and has been used for canal debridement in endodontic procedures.

How can you avoid contact with propolis?
Avoid products that list any of the following names in the ingredients:
- Bee bread
- CA RN: 9009-62-5
- Bee glue
- Hive dross

What are some products that may contain propolis?

Cosmetics:
- Avon Color Trend Flavor Savers Lip Balm
- Burt's Bees Beeswax Lip Balm; Tube, Tin and Lifeguard's Choice
- Burt's Bees Beeswax Lip Gloss
- Burt's Bees Lip Gloss
- Burt's Bees Lip Shimmers
- Burt's Bees Radiance Lip Shimmer
- Chapstick Chapstick - Peppermint
- Clinique Acne Solutions Concealing Stick
- Clinique Colour Surge Bare Brilliance Lipstick
- Clinique Different Lipstick
- Clinique Long Last Soft Matte
- CoverGirl Outlast All-Day Lip Color
- Karma Glassy and Classy Lip Gloss Duo - Color
- Lip Medex Lip Medex Lip Balm
- Mary Kay Satin Lip Balm
- Mary Kay Signature Crème Lipstick
- Mary Kay Signature Lip Liner
- Neutrogena Lip Moisturizer (stick, SPF 15)
- Neutrogena Lip Nutrition Balm - Berry Smooth
- Neutrogena Lip Nutrition Balm - Passion Fruit Boosting
- NYC Precision Slant Tip Kiss Gloss
- Personal Basics by Andrea Rose Lip Pencil
- Sally Hansen Invisible Lip Liner
- VMV Hypoallergenics Armada Moisturizing Protective Lip Balm (SPF 60+)
- VMV Hypoallergenics Lip Bliss; Lipped Crème Lipsticks
- Wet n Wild Crème Lip Liner Pencil

Cough syrups
- Down to Earth Coffee Bloom Honey

Food:
- Glee Glee Gum Chewing Gum

Gum:
- Beehive Botanicals Honey and Pollen Body Moisturizer
- Beehive Botanicals Moisturizing Facial Cleanser

Lotions:
- Ben's Honey Propolis Suckles

Ointments:
- Herpecin L Lip Protectant, Sunscreen & Cold Sore Balm (stick - SPF 30)
- Lip Clear Lysine & Cold Sore Treatment - All Natural Ointment

Pills:
- Beerich pollen tablets with Propolis and Royal Jelly
- Beerich Propolis tablets

Toothpaste:
- Tom's of Maine Natural Antiplaque Toothpaste with Propolis and Myrrh (all flavors)

Vitamins:
- Ben's Honey Propolis capsules

For additional information about products that might contain propolis, go to the Household Product Database online (http://household-products.nlm.nih.gov) at the United States National Library of Medicine. These lists are brief and provide just a few examples. They are not comprehensive. Product formulations also change frequently. Read product labels carefully and talk to your doctor if you have any questions. These are general guidelines. Talk to your doctor for more specific instructions.