

Seed exchanges during COVID-19

Even during COVID-19, Seeds of Diversity encourages communities to support local seed exchanges and seed libraries, and we offer the following advice on how to do that safely.

According to public health authorities, the coronavirus only survives on paper and cardboard surfaces for up to 24 hours. The simplest way that you can protect people from transmitting the virus on paper seed envelopes is to allow the packets to sit unhandled for at least a full day before distribution or contact by other people.

When seed packets are distributed, minimize the number of people who handle them, sanitize hands before and after re-packing, and always maintain an adequate distance between the people involved.

If you want extra assurance, we confirm that dry seeds are very resistant to commonly-used sanitizers such as 70% alcohol. You can spray hand sanitizing liquid on seed envelopes and even directly on garden seeds without harming them, as long as the seeds dry again within twenty minutes.

[CDC. \(2020, October 28\). How Coronavirus spreads.](#)

[Suman, R. et al. \(2020\). Sustainability of Coronavirus on different surfaces. *J Clin Exp Hepatol*, 10\(4\), 386-390.](#)