



Models & Examples for Sending Students Home With Seeds

National Farm to School Network Partners have shared these examples for how communities are working to keep students engaged with gardening activities during school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This list was compiled on April 2, 2020. If you have additional information to share, please email us at info@farmtoschool.org.

OHIO - Haley Plahuta, OH Farm to School Program Assistant at Ohio State University

- Reaching out to companies and stores for seed donations

WEST VIRGINIA - Kristen McCartney, WV SNAP-Ed Director, WV University Extension

- Sending seeds via the mail and through kits in coordination with feeding programs
 - Do not have an established safety protocol in terms of sanitizing materials - everything is done at the local level through SNAP-Ed Health Educators (county-based)
 - Sharing educational materials, photos, videos, links, etc. on Facebook page
- Various approaches:
 - Educators dropping kits off with food service staff; getting packed with lunches
 - Kids pick up lunches and there is a bag of kits where they can grab if they want
 - Sign-up survey on Facebook page where people request seeds
 - Generated a county list for our educators and they are preparing the seed packets and mailing from their homes
 - Advised to take an envelope to the PO and have it weighed and then purchase necessary stamps to mail the rest to avoid spending too much time at the PO
 - 4600 participants on FB page - may have to cut off at 5000 but hoping community partners will help support this to continue

VERMONT - Betsy Rosenbluth, Project Director, VT FEED

- Experimenting with dropping off seed packets and a flyer with the farm to school staff person in the district who will distribute them herself along with meals at the pick-up sites
 - Will email teachers to let them know that the families had seeds distributed for those interested in using them in their remote learning
 - Including a [list of aggregated resources for parents and educators](#) who may be looking for garden-based activities to tackle with their kids and students
 - COVID-19 Guidelines for safe school community gardening <https://vtfeed.org/sites/default/files/imce/uploads/Gardening%20COVID-Infographic-PrintQuality3.pdf>

NORTH CAROLINA - Tess Thraves, Farm to School Coordinator, CEFS, North Carolina State University

- Two sites have been doing it for two weeks
 - Sending out the entire packet with information and a growing kit with seeds, containers, soil, etc.
 - One seed packet at a time with recipes and activities and instructions
- Relying on donations from seed distributors, grant funds and local donations to buy seeds