

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

FOR BUYERS

If you're planning to buy a home but are curious how COVID-19 might affect that, here are some answers to frequently asked questions about what to expect when buying at this time.

I was planning to buy a home. Can I still do that?

Yes! The great news is these days there is a lot of technology to assist in virtual meetings as well as virtual tours and even online signatures on important documents like contracts. Work with your REALTOR® to find out what options are available to you. But there's no reason you have to postpone your home buying goals.



Am I still able to meet with a REALTOR® to get started on buying a home?

Yes! Reach out to a REALTOR® to discuss what virtual options are available for meeting. Even if you are not tech savvy, there is likely a simple way to still meet whether on the phone or through a video chat.

Will COVID-19 affect the timeline of my real estate transaction?

With the uncertainty and unprecedented impact of COVID-19, there is always a possibility it could have some effect on your timeline. Many people and services are involved in the transaction, and each is being affected by the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation. However, continue to communicate with your REALTOR® so you know what's going on with your transaction, and be sure to ask any questions you have so you feel confident in what's happening. Your REALTOR® is there to guide you.

What should I expect when touring a home?

Be prepared for additional sanitary protocols. This means you may be asked to wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer before and after touring the home. And don't be offended if your REALTOR® wipes down surfaces you touch – they are just trying to respect the seller's need for sanitation, too. Your REALTOR® may also ask you to practice social distancing. So don't take it personally if they are unable to shake your hand. It's for your protection, too.

In some cases, you may be asked to take a virtual tour before viewing the property in person. This helps sellers limit their potential exposure to COVID-19 and ensure only serious buyers are viewing their home. Your REALTOR® will talk you through that process, and ensure you have the information you need to decide if the property is right for you.

Is there anything I should be aware of when moving more of my transaction online?

Beware of scams. If you receive a document for your e-signature, verify with your REALTOR® by phone before signing. And before sending any money online, call your title company using an independently verified number to confirm wiring instructions.

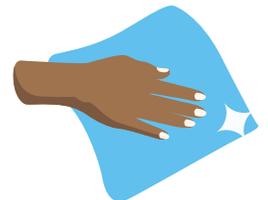


What kinds of safety precautions might my REALTOR® ask me to take?

Your REALTOR® may ask you to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before and after touring a home. Your REALTOR® may also ask you to meet online or consider a virtual home tour. If you or someone in your household has been sick, you may be asked to postpone an in-person meeting or switch to a virtual format. All of these measures are for your health and safety as well.

Are REALTORS® practicing social distancing? How might this affect me?

Your health and safety is a priority to your REALTOR®, and your REALTOR® will practice social distancing in line with the recommendations from health officials. This really shouldn't affect your transaction. The only effect you may notice is your REALTOR® may refrain from shaking your hand.



When it's time to move, I'll have a lot of service people in and out of my new house, like movers and my Internet provider. How can I limit my potential exposure in this situation?

Ensure you use sanitary wipes to clean any surfaces that may have been touched. And you may also consider asking anyone coming in and out of your house to use hand sanitizer or wash their hands before handling your possessions.