



Sunday Column

By Kim Bragman, 2020 Chairman

4/5/2020

Social distancing? You can still reach your homeownership goals virtually

“Social distancing” has become the norm, and if you’re in the market to buy or sell a home, you’re probably wondering how that will work now. After all, with the need to limit movements outside your home to curb the spread of COVID-19, how are you supposed to talk with a REALTOR® or have a showing?

The good news is San Antonio area REALTORS® are ready and able to assist you with your real estate goals with virtual options. Even if you’re not tech savvy, you can very likely find a way to keep moving forward with your plans using technology. And your REALTOR® will help you along the way to make sure you feel confident in your decisions and keep your transaction on track.

Here are some of the ways you can fulfill your homeownership goals while social distancing:

- **Try a virtual meeting.** There are several easy to use and free options for meeting with a REALTOR® without having to be in person. Try using the camera on your smartphone or an app like WhatsApp on your phone. You can even video chat through platforms you probably already use like Facebook messenger.
- **Take a virtual tour.** Just like a virtual meeting, you can take a tour using your smartphone or through a video chatting app. Ask your REALTOR® what options are available to you to tour the property without having to leave your home. Once you’ve virtually toured a property and you’re serious about purchasing it, you can discuss with your REALTOR® a time to view it in person. If you do visit a home in person, remember to follow guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control for social distancing. Your REALTOR® will also encourage you to take safety precautions like using hand sanitizer and avoiding handshakes, and they will also wipe down doorknobs, light switches and other high touch surfaces to reduce any potential spread of disease.
- **Sign documents online.** REALTORS® have access to electronic documents that enable buyers and sellers to sign paperwork to minimize in-person contact. Also, Texas is one of only a few states that allows closings via remote notarization.
- **Beware of online 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.

- **Communicate with your REALTOR®.** 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.

Real estate closings continue to take place each day, and the demand for real estate remains high, especially with the low interest rates available right now. San Antonio area REALTORS® stand ready to use virtual platforms to help consumers navigate the market and transaction.

For more information on buying, selling or leasing a property, visit [SABOR.com](https://www.sabor.com) and use a San Antonio area REALTOR®.