



Sunday Column

By Kim Bragman, 2020 Chairman

4/19/2020

Looking to buy or sell a home? Don't let the pandemic stop you

San Antonio area REALTORS® have the tools and industry know-how to still help you with your buying and selling needs, even in the midst of a pandemic. There are many ways to conduct your transaction virtually or at a distance so you can stay safe.

Go Virtual

The good news is so much is already available online so you can practice social distancing while still pursuing the home of your dreams. Browse photos online of properties you like and take a virtual tour to see if the home might be a good fit for you.

You can also meet with your REALTOR® virtually through a video chat platform like Facebook Messenger, Zoom, WhatsApp or FaceTime. REALTORS® can conduct property tours and give listing presentations using these platforms, keeping you at a safe distance while still giving you the opportunity to take a closer look at a property or ask questions you have about your home sale.

If you decide you'd like to see a property in person, talk with your REALTOR® about how to do so and the safety precautions you can take.

REALTORS® also have access to electronic documents to enable buyers and sellers to sign paperwork to minimize in-person contact. This includes disclosure forms, representation agreements, contracts and closing documents.

However, it is important when using technology to stay cautious of scams. Before sending money, buyers and sellers should always call their title company using an independently verified number to confirm wiring instructions.

Safety Protocols

If you need to conduct any business in-person, you may be asked to follow some sanitation protocols to ensure your safety and the safety of others. When attending property showings or inspections, REALTORS® may ask you to do the following:

- Wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer before and after entering a home
- Avoid touching anything in the home if possible
- Refrain from touching door handles
- Refrain from touching light switches

- Stand six feet away from each other during showings

Your REALTOR® may also disinfect all door handles and high-touch areas prior to and after showings.

With so many options to make the transaction virtual, there's no reason you have to pause your efforts to buy or sell property. Real estate closings continue to take place each day, and the demand for real estate remains high. San Antonio area REALTORS® stand ready to help you navigate the market and transaction.

For more information on buying, selling, or leasing your home visit SABOR.com and use a San Antonio area REALTOR®.

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