

COVID-19: SHOWING GUIDANCE DURING REOPENING

As restrictions begin to ease around the country, we provide this guidance to assist brokers in formulating guidelines for their businesses and agents in preparation for business in the new normal, we encourage members to use virtual showings and limit in-person activity in all other aspects of the transaction as much as possible during the pendency of this crisis, even where in-person showings are allowable by state or local order.

This is general guidance only. Be sure to consult legal counsel, public health information, all applicable executive orders, and federal, state, and local government and agency guidance. Brokers/Agents should check with their local Associations as guidelines could vary from State to State.

BEFORE CONDUCTING IN-PERSON SHOWINGS

- Check state and local executive orders to confirm the permissibility, and any specific requirements, of in-person showings.
- Encourage buyers to narrow their property search through photos, virtual tours, and leveraging other technology to reduce the number of in-person showings.
- Adopt a policy of asking all buyers for a pre-qualification letter to limit in-person showings only to qualified and serious buyers.
- Be familiar with state and local restrictions based on whether a property is vacant, owner-occupied, or tenant-occupied, and consider implementing different precautions for occupied properties versus vacant properties.
- Adhere to any specific requirements requested by sellers showing the property.
- Require property showings by appointment, in lieu of open houses.
- Request both the seller and potential buyers to self-disclose whether they have COVID-19 or exhibit any symptoms. However, note that COVID-19 is also spread by individuals who are asymptomatic.
- Discourage non-essential parties from attending the showing.
- Be aware of and comply with fair housing obligations related to COVID-19.
- For owner or tenant-occupied properties, request that the seller or tenant open all cabinets, closets, window coverings, and to turn on lights before leaving the property.
- For vacant properties, arrive early to open the front door, open all cabinets, closet, window coverings, and to turn on lights.

DURING IN-PERSON SHOWINGS

- Adhere to social distancing recommendations.
- Avoid shaking hands with clients.
- Limit the number of persons who may attend a showing, such as only four people total.
- Require all persons entering a property to immediately wash their hands or to use hand sanitizer, remove footwear or wear booties, and wear a face mask or covering, and gloves.
- Instruct buyers and others touring the home to avoid touching any surfaces in the home.
- Instruct buyers and guests not to use bathroom facilities at the property.
- Do not share phones, pens, or tablets or other personal property during the showing.

AFTER SHOWING PROPERTY

- Wipe down any surfaces touched during the showing with a sanitizing wipe.
- Wipe down the key and lockbox with a sanitizing wipe or disinfecting cleaner after use.
- Speak with buyers outside of the property or in a ventilated area while maintaining a distance of 6 feet, or arrange to speak by phone or email.
- Do not provide any paper documents, and instead follow up with any information electronically after you leave the property.
- Use hand sanitizer upon returning to your vehicle.
- Maintain a detailed log of interactions to enable contact tracing, to include names, dates, and locations of interactions, as well as a party's contact information.