

REALTOR® GUIDELINES TO COMPLYING WITH ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Santa Cruz County joined 8 other Bay Area Counties (Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco, Marin, Contra Costa, Alameda, Monterey and San Benito) and announced that real estate agents now have a narrow exception to practice residential real estate as an essential business. The Santa Cruz County Association of REALTORS offers the following guidelines for complying with this order issued March 31, 2020 by the Public Health Officer of Santa Cruz County:

IT IS NOT BUSINESS AS USUAL

1. **Stay Safe, Work Safe.** When contemplating providing essential services to the public always take the safest course, including working remotely and practicing all of the guidelines from the CDC and County Health Departments. If personal contact is essential, practice social distancing.
2. **Open Houses are still not allowed, the following restrictions are in effect:**
 - a. Showings should be done virtually, if at all possible.
 - b. All activities should be completed electronically, if at all possible.
 - c. If a virtual showing is not realistic, a private showing can occur with the following stipulations:
 - Only 1 REALTOR® can be present.
 - A maximum of 2 other people are allowed. These 2 people must reside in the same household.
 - The property must be VACANT, meaning no person currently still lives at the residence.
3. **Photographers & Inspectors for occupied properties (updated 4/15/2020):** If a virtual viewing is not possible, then a single photographer or videographer is permitted to visit the property once to take photographs and/or video. This should be done at a time when the occupant is not present in the residence. Inspections are an essential business and therefore, can occur. All CDC and County Health Departments guidelines should be followed.
4. **Social Distancing Protocol Form:** If you plan to conduct business during the Shelter in Place, you must complete and display the [Social Distancing Protocol form](#). Members should clearly post the completed form at any properties that you are listing. Additionally, we encourage ALL REALTORS® to carry a copy of the local [Shelter in Place order](#) highlighting the REALTOR® section.

5. **NEVER** arrange an in-person meeting, visit or other contact when any of the participants has any symptoms or knowledge of possessing a communicable disease.
6. **ALWAYS refrain from touching surfaces touched by others** except when absolutely necessary and then use CDC approved methods for sanitizing the surface; and **ALWAYS** wash hands and follow CDC advice for being as safe as possible.
7. **Check for Updates.** Your Association is working with Health Agencies and other Government Agencies to keep you informed and to provide you with updates on the Orders and their interpretations.

C.A.R. has created several forms you should use before showing property. You can find a copy of these [here](#) These can be accessed through your ZipForm Account.

BE SAFE, FLATTEN THE CURVE