

# FAQs for Homebuyers

Here's what Austin homebuyers can expect when searching for a home right now.

Austin REALTORS® are well-equipped to help you find your next home safely and effortlessly. When COVID-19 swept through our community, REALTORS® pivoted quickly to implement virtual technologies and safe showing measures so that your family's housing needs don't have to be sidelined by a pandemic.

## **Is it possible to buy a home virtually?**

Yes. The number of homebuyers who are willing to purchase a home sight unseen is growing, and REALTORS® offer virtual tours and showing options that can allow you to do so. Many title companies offer virtual closing options, but your lender may still require in-person signatures.

## **How has COVID-19 impacted homebuyer preferences?**

Our new virtual environment has not only increased demand for home offices and gyms, it's also given many the freedom to live and work from anywhere, eliminating commute times and expanding access to more affordable homes. Your REALTOR® can help you walk through all of your options for achieving your ideal living situation in this new normal.

## **Will COVID-19 impact the timeline of my real estate transaction?**

A lull in listing activity this spring drove housing inventory to an all-time low and as a result, homes are selling quickly. The lending process, conversely, may take longer than expect due to additional employment checks and heavy refinancing activity. Look to your REALTOR® for guidance and communicate openly to ensure you know the status of your transaction.

## **What safety measures should I expect when touring a home?**

First, ask your REALTOR® about what safety protocols their brokerage has put in place. You will likely travel to properties in a separate vehicle. Wearing masks, social distancing, and wearing gloves and/or shoe coverings may be asked of you to tour a property.

## **What should I know about conducting my transaction online?**

Be cautious when responding to requests for personal or financially sensitive information, as well as using any online forms that require an e-signature. Be sure to call your REALTOR® or title company to verify that the request came from a trusted source.

**For more COVID-19 resources, visit our Document Library at  
[ABOR.com/Documents](https://www.abor.com/Documents)**

Updated 1/4/22