



CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

Industry News & Resources

1. Governor Whitmer Extends “Stay at Home” Order with Increased Restrictions.

Today Governor Whitmer extended her “Stay at Home” order with Executive Order 2020-42. This order takes effect today at 11:59 pm and continues through April 30, 2020 at 11:59 pm. With this extension, the Governor has taken an even harder line on travel, retailers, and other business activity. This extension leaves in place the current restrictions on Realtors®.

Executive Order 2020-42 maintains the March 19th memo from the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency and keeps in place the [FAQ](#) directing that real estate brokers and salespersons **are not “critical infrastructure workers”** and therefore may not leave their homes for work. The only narrow exception to the order is the instance where work is absolutely necessary to assist those with a genuine and emergent need, such as an immediate lack of shelter. The order also imposes two new restrictions impacting real estate activity:

- Travel between two residences in this state is not permitted after 11:59pm, April 10th;
- No one shall advertise or rent a short-term vacation property except as necessary to assist in housing a health care professional or volunteer aiding in the response to the COVID-19 crisis.

For now, Michigan Realtors® interpretation of Executive Order 2020-21 carries forward to the new Executive Order 2020-42. Real estate activities, like the showing of homes and other property, open houses, and other client contact should be considered to be non-critical and travel to do so is prohibited through April 30, 2020. It remains important to understand that the Governor has taken a very hard line on all licensed professions. She has indicated that enforcement for any licensed industry will be subject to double fines and will include action upon the licensee.

For those Realtors® with clients with a scheduled closing in the next three weeks, Michigan title companies, appraisers, and home inspectors will continue to do business subject to guidance provided by the Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services. Realtors® should check with the specific title company/appraiser/inspector regarding its policy.

Real estate brokerages still have the ability to participate in closings via conference calls or other video conferencing methods to comply with the Governor’s order. Additionally, real estate brokerages can still take new listings and work cooperatively with the seller to develop photography for the listings.

Despite this recent Order, we continue to advocate on your behalf to impress upon the Governor that there are many practical examples from other states of how to facilitate real estate activity in a health-conscious manner. Additionally, Michigan Realtors® continues to work with legislative leaders to provide recommendations on how the real estate market can continue to move forward, while keeping public health a priority. Our message will also reiterate that Realtors® are ready to lead the way in showcasing professionalism and integrity when the restrictions are lifted.

For all updates, Legal FAQ’s, and other resources during this difficult time, please visit <https://mirealtors.com/Industry-Resources>

2. Save the Date: Michigan Realtors® Virtual Membership Townhall

Tuesday, April 14, at 2pm, Michigan Realtors® will be holding its first ever virtual townhall for our members.

COVID-19 has significantly impacted the State of Michigan and the real estate industry. Hear from Michigan Realtors® and National Association of REALTORS® leadership and staff on the Governor’s “Stay at Home” order, State Advocacy Efforts, Legal FAQ, Federal Advocacy Efforts, Paycheck Protection Program loans, and Unemployment benefits.

Featured Speakers:

Maureen Francis, Michigan Realtors® 2020 President
Rob Campau, CEO
Brad Ward, Vice President of Public Policy and Legal Affairs
Brian Westrin, General Counsel
Shannon McGahn, NAR Vice President of Government Affairs
Erin Stackley, NAR Senior Representative, Commercial Policy Group
Nia Duggins, NAR Policy Representative for Business Issues

A link to join the townhall will be sent to the membership in the coming days.

3. Governor Issues Executive Order Expanding Michigan’s Electronic and Remote Notary Law

Last night, Governor Whitmer signed an Executive Order allowing expanded access for notaries and citizens to on-line and electronic notarization. In addition, the new executive order requires register of deeds offices and financial institutions to accept tangible copies of electronically signed documents, even if they do not include the original signatures, as long as the notary certifies the copy is accurate.

Michigan Realtors® worked with a stakeholder group of bankers, credit unions, title companies, mortgage lenders, and attorneys to pass Michigan’s Remote and electronic notary law in 2018. Over the last several months the Michigan Secretary of State’s office has worked to develop standards to implement the law. With the 2018 law still in its infancy, the industry and register of deeds offices are still building capacity to handle remote and electronic notarial acts – which has meant limited access to these services. The same stakeholder groups came together to work with Governor Whitmer on expanding access to remote notary services to protect the health of Michigan citizens and our economy.

While the new Executive Order does not mandate the use of remote and electronic notarization, it does provide a process for parties to the document, and the notary, to use during this state of emergency. In addition, the Executive Order takes the important step in allowing registers of deeds to record tangible copies of these documents.

The Executive Order expires at 11:59 on May 6th.

[Read Executive Order](#)

4. Summary Page of All Michigan Realtors® Communications

Keep track of all COVID-19 related communications [here](#).

Ads:

SPECIAL ENROLLMENT FOR THIS EXCLUSIVE OFFER IS AVAILABLE UNTIL APRIL 15*

2 MONTHS OF TELEHEALTH PROVIDED BY NAR

- Quality healthcare without leaving home
- Visit a doctor using your smartphone, tablet, or computer
- 24/7/365 access



Our home loans are \$7,500 better, with MSHDA Down Payment Assistance.

MSHDA
» More information



Get Realtor® Party Mobile Alerts

Help strengthen the Realtor® voice! Sign up to receive short text messages to act on important real estate issues. On average, you will receive three to five calls for action per year. Text the word “Realtor” to **30644**.

*Message & data rates may apply.

Michigan Realtors®
www.mirealtors.com
720 N. Washington Ave
Lansing, MI 48906
USA
800-454-7842