

# IMPORTANT RASEM MEMBER ADVISORY



Dear RASEM Member:

Yesterday, Governor Charlie Baker [ordered](#) all [non-essential businesses](#) to close their physical workplaces and facilities from noon today (Tuesday, March 24) until noon on Tuesday, April 7. The Massachusetts Association of REALTORS® (MAR) is urgently seeking clarification on whether all real estate practices qualify as essential services and has requested an explicit designation as essential. This will ensure that those who need to shelter during this time are able to find it. Real estate closings are permitted to continue as "financial services" under the order.

Given how much of real estate practice is already conducted remotely, there is little difference between these designations for our industry:

- If real estate is recognized as an essential service: Realtors® will have the option of keep their brick-and-mortar offices open to workers, customers, and the public within their guidelines established by public health and safety officials.
- If real estate is not recognized as an essential service: All real estate offices must close for the required period. **However, Realtors® may continue to conduct business remotely within the guidelines of public health and safety officials.** Please note that [new state and health and safety guidelines](#) now cap each gathering at 10 people.

[Click here to read the Governor's Press Release](#)  
[Click here to read the Executive Order](#)  
[Click here to read the list of Essential Businesses](#)

	Essential	Not Essential
Can my brick -and-mortar office remain open to workers, customers and the public within the guidelines established by health and safety officials?	Yes	No
Can I work remotely?	Yes	Yes
Can I meet with clients, show homes and conduct business, outside of the office, within guidelines established by health and safety officials?	Yes	Yes
Do I need to continue working if I feel it is unsafe to do so?	No	No

COVID-19 Addendum:

MAR has been working diligently to provide our members with the most relevant information and resources as we navigate this pandemic. MAR has developed a COVID-19 Addendum that you may use to accompany real estate purchase contracts. This addendum addresses COVID-19-specific delays and allows for an extension to the time for performance.

**This form is available to download [HERE](#) and will be available through our forms platforms shortly.**

Smoke Certificate Addendum:

We recognize that obtaining a smoke certificate is a critical component to the majority of real estate transactions in Massachusetts. As a result of the Governor's emergency declaration, many local fire departments are not currently scheduling smoke and carbon monoxide detector inspections. MAR, working closely with our industry partners, was able to secure a deferral of this requirement. MAR has developed an addendum for our members' use in satisfying the requirements of the Executive Order.

**This form may be downloaded [HERE](#) and will be available through our forms platform shortly.**

We will continue to bring you governmental updates affecting our industry.

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