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Coronavirus Updates & Alerts

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis continues, ensuring the health and safety of the public and our members is REBNY's top priority.

Executive Order: Essential Real Estate Operations

New York State's "stay-at-home" orders are still in effect and we strongly urge you to follow these directives. The Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) has not released any new guidelines about real estate services in recent days. Such guidelines may be coming shortly. Based upon a review of executive orders and guidelines that are already in place, residential moving services as well as property management services (to the extent required for building maintenance or the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residential buildings or other businesses) are considered essential services.

So, in summary, this is where we stand:

- "Stay-at-home" does not mean that all business stops.
- Closings should continue to take place as virtually as possible.
- Brokerage and branch offices will remain closed for the foreseeable future.
- Agents should stay home and do as much work as possible virtually to keep our economic engine running. This includes listing properties, conducting virtual showings and using technology to communicate with clients and the various parties to facilitate current and future transactions.
- Agents should not engage in any in-person real estate activities such as going to the office, open houses, walk-throughs or showings.

This is an uncertain time for all of us and REBNY realizes that these restrictions could limit an agent's ability to earn commissions. However, we believe, once again, that the health and safety of REBNY members and our society is paramount.

Please continue to work remotely, stay home and follow social distancing rules. We will be providing practical resources for agents interested in applying for unemployment benefits under the recently passed federal CARES Act. For more information, please read [REBNY Resources: How to Apply for Unemployment Benefits here](#).

We expect further guidance very shortly and will continue to keep you updated.

Executive Order: Essential Construction

The Department of Buildings recently released a Frequently Asked Questions document to provide more details to the industry about what construction work may continue and how to make requests for essential work. [Click here to view the FAQ's document](#).

Best Practices: Residential Property Managers

REBNY has compiled best practices for residential management companies navigating the Coronavirus crisis. These are consistent with federal, State, and City guidelines and are meant to help mitigate exposure of Coronavirus in buildings. [Click here to read our Best Practices Guide](#).

As a reminder, REBNY recently launched a [Coronavirus Resource Hub](#) to provide up-to-date news, guidelines and information to the real estate community. We will also kick off a series of webinars beginning next week to help our members during these trying times. Please continue to follow REBNY updates via email and social media, and do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions at rebnymembership@rebny.com.

Stay safe,



James Whelan
REBNY President