

NSW Government rules for Open Homes and Auctions

Real estate agents and property vendors may hold open house property inspections and on-site auctions.

The following safety measures will help keep customers, property owners and real estate staff safe from the coronavirus.

- *Use digital platforms where possible to remove physical contact.
- *Maintain physical distancing of greater than 1.5 metres between people by
 - limiting the number of people viewing a property and attending an auction
 - managing the number of people entering small spaces
 - considering an extended timeframe for open house viewings and inspections
 - using outdoor venues for auctions wherever possible
 - using large venues for indoor auctions to adhere to the 4 square metre rule.
- *Promote good hygiene on premises and at auctions by
 - making hand sanitiser available
 - ensuring clients do not touch surfaces
 - cleaning the property before and after inspections.
- *Keep detailed contact records of people attending open homes and auctions.
- *Ensure people with any symptoms of illness do not attend a property.

Auction houses

- *Auction houses can only be open to the public for the purpose of conducting an auction for food supply, livestock, fibre or crops or real estate.
- *The 4 square metre rule and physical distancing applies and the number of persons allowed on premises is restricted to 100 people indoors or 500 people outdoors.

Penalties for breaching orders

Breach of orders made under the [Public Health Act 2010](#) is a criminal offence and attracts heavy penalties. In the case of an individual, the maximum penalty is \$11,000, or imprisonment for 6 months, or both and a further \$5500 penalty may apply for each day the offence continues. The NSW Police may also issue on-the-spot fines of \$1000 for an offence.

