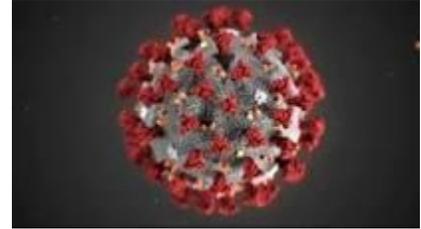




*"From Where I Sit ..."*

## **The Coronavirus and The CME Retirement Plan!**

On December 31, 2019, China informed the WHO of flu-like cases in one of its provinces and reported its first death on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The first case in the US was reported on January 20<sup>th</sup>. As of the writing of this article (March 7<sup>th</sup>), 101,927 global cases have been reported with 3,486 deaths in 94 countries. In the US, 213 cases were reported with 11 deaths.



Considering this catastrophic expansion over a period of just over two months, one would expect an immediate impact on US markets, but this was not the case. The Dow Jones opened on January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 28,938.97 and continued an upward trajectory to a high of 29,409.09 and a closing on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 29,348.03. After a slight 355-point decrease over two days, the Dow began a net loss of 3,127.63 over the next 10 business days.

From the various news outlets every day, there is significant discussion about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and its impact on global and US markets and no one really knows how this will end. There are mixed reports and diverse speculations out of Washington and Wall Street with different perspectives and possibilities for the future.

Amid this continuing confusion, it is only natural that those of us in the CME Retirement Plan would be anxious as to the implications for our retirement accounts. Over the years, our Plan has been improved with selected options designed to help ensure safety and protection as participants neared their age of retirement. Particularly the option of Safe Harbor which affords participants at least 65 years of age up to 9 additional years of protected growth until mandatory retirement. Safe Harbor was designed by me 18 years ago for just "such a time as this."

Those too young to enter Safe Harbor have the benefit of more years for corrective growth in a Plan that is designed for the long term increase as opposed to short term speculation. And based on the history of prior years, the record has repetitively shown that over an extended period of more than 100 years, the markets have always continued an upward growth pattern.

Unfortunately, the staff members of the General Board of Personnel Services are not permitted to give advice, but we continue to provide options as ready solutions for wise investment decisions. Although this is all that we can do, it does provide a tremendous benefit. *Or at least that's the way it looks to me ...*

*"From Where I Sit"*

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*Personnel Services Webpage of the CME Website at [www.thecmechurch.org](http://www.thecmechurch.org))*