



"From Where I Sit ..."

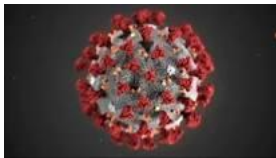
UNCERTAINTY:

The Markets, The Virus, and The Future...

This article is not intended to be a doom and gloom writing, but instead to be a rational look at the present and our potential for the future. In the shadow of the Covid-19 outbreak in the Far East, the Dow Jones Industrial Average opened January 2, 2020 at 28,639. It rose to its highest yearly mark of 29,569 on February 12th, then sank to 18,214 on March 23rd having lost an unprecedented 11,355 points or 38% before beginning a generally steady rise to 27,111 on June 5th (*the time of this writing*). Without a doubt, much of the turbulence experienced within the markets has been directly predicated by the shutting down of the economy to mitigate the growing spread of the Virus.



The current gradual (*and in some instances not so gradual*) opening of businesses across the US is now being overshadowed by a potential late Fall spike in the rise of the Covid-19 Virus that could potentially force federal, state and local governments to again shut down the economy should that anticipated spike warrant such actions. At this writing, at least 20 states thus far have reported increases in the number of reported virus cases. And there is no way to gauge the additional sociological impact from the recent marches and demonstrations.



Amid such uncertainty, those of us in the CME Retirement Plan look forward to the receipt of our participant statement for the six month period ending June 30th with the understanding that it will disclose the status of our account based on market activity as of that date compared to its status as of December 31, 2019. No one can confidently predict the market even during a stable period, but we need to be reminded, from earlier articles, of the implicit weakness of the current market based on an anticipated downturn that could lead to a bear market. In other words, no matter how well the markets may have done at the time of this article nor the extent of prior gains and/or losses since the first of the year, the only factor that ultimately determines the status of our respective participant accounts is where the markets will be on June 30th.



Today's catch phrase is the "new normal", but it appears the "new normal", at least for the coming months, is the recognition of our necessity to live with uncertainty. However, the positive side of such a need is to be ever on guard and to be perpetually prepared for whatever the future may hold. This is the only way that we can effectively face and conquer the future's uncertainty. *Or at least that's the way it looks to me ...*

"From Where I Sit"

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