

May Commentary

As the country begins to reopen after two month of quarantining, I think most people would agree that this is going to be a slow process. No one can predict how this is going to play out. A safe return to normal life without a widely available vaccine is looking difficult. There are more than 100 different programs now underway working on developing a vaccine with six or so making some fairly significant headway. In the meantime, economic and social recovery from Covid-19 is going to take more time than we would like it to.

All things considered however, the market has not taken this whole thing all that badly. It has recovered about half of its sharp drop in March, and is currently down about 15% from its high in February, and about 10% since the start of the year. Although no one knows how things will ultimately turn out, and as crazy of a time as we are currently living through, the market seems to be looking ahead to a better economy when we are on the other side of this. That is why selling your stock holdings and waiting for better days will most likely prove to be the wrong move. By the time everything is back to normal the market could very well be setting new highs again. The timing of all this, of course, is anyone's guess. And with interest rates near zero, there is very little advantage to sit in cash and wait it out. Currently the dividends on many high quality U.S. stocks are significantly higher than the interest on bonds or CD's. Having said that, however, any money that is needed over the next few years probably shouldn't be in stocks, despite the current low interest rates. After having money needed for short term needs on the sidelines, the rest of your portfolio should be diversified and focused on longer term goals.

We have officially reopened our office full time. If you will be visiting please note the new procedures.

Visiting The Office

1. Face coverings are required for everyone entering the building
2. The building has designated the elevators to go up and stairs to go down. Hand sanitizer is available in the lobby and at our office.
3. Maintain social distancing as much as possible i.e. no handshakes.
4. Only two visitors in the office at a time.
5. We will clean and sanitize the office on a daily basis.

Zoom Virtual Meetings

Zoom has become a household name for many and we are offering virtual meetings through Zoom. It can be conducted on a desktop, laptop, or even on your mobile phone. We can send you a link to the virtual meeting by email or text and you just enter the meeting at the scheduled time.

Naturally, we can continue to hold meetings by telephone and have the capabilities to teleconference with several people at once.

We hope you and your families stay safe and healthy. We all need to remain optimistic.

Best Regards,

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