

the **BENEDICT** BRIEF

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Thoughts on Coronavirus and the Recent Market Volatility

The fears surrounding the Coronavirus outbreak have been building for the last few weeks, but those fears just hit the market this week. The markets have experienced a sharp selloff this week resulting in a 10% correction in the broad S&P 500 Index, it's quickest correction in history.

What is going to happen next? What should we do?

We can't predict the future, so we do not know what will happen next, but we do know that we should think and act rationally to avoid making emotional decisions.

Here are some key points:

- Latest figures show that approx. 82,000 people are infected with the virus and there have been approx. 2,800 confirmed deaths.
- The economic impact is real and will be felt temporarily throughout the various industries and sectors across the global economy.
- Scientists and companies around the world are diligently working to develop a vaccine.

Of course, it is a tragic situation for all those involved and their families. But this is not the first virus outbreak the world has seen and, unfortunately, it's probably not the last.

We are not trying to downplay this event, but humanity has suffered worse and overcome. The world economies will certainly take a temporary hit but will recover. Great companies will be affected in the short-term but will adapt and pull through.

We speak with many of you about trying to focus on what you can control, and this virus outbreak is certainly not something you can control. All you can do is control your reaction to it.

Regarding your investment accounts, our focus is to remain calm and act rationally. As long-term investors, we focus on owning quality assets that pay a predictable and growing income. Not much has changed since last week, except many of those assets have gone on sale.

We welcome any questions, comments or concerns.

Benedict Financial Advisors, Inc.

WHAT WE DO...

We prepare retirement income plans, which are essentially blueprints to help our clients pursue their long-term retirement goals.

We manage our clients' investment accounts on a fee basis with discretionary authority focusing on meeting their objectives rather than focusing on what the financial markets may be doing.

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