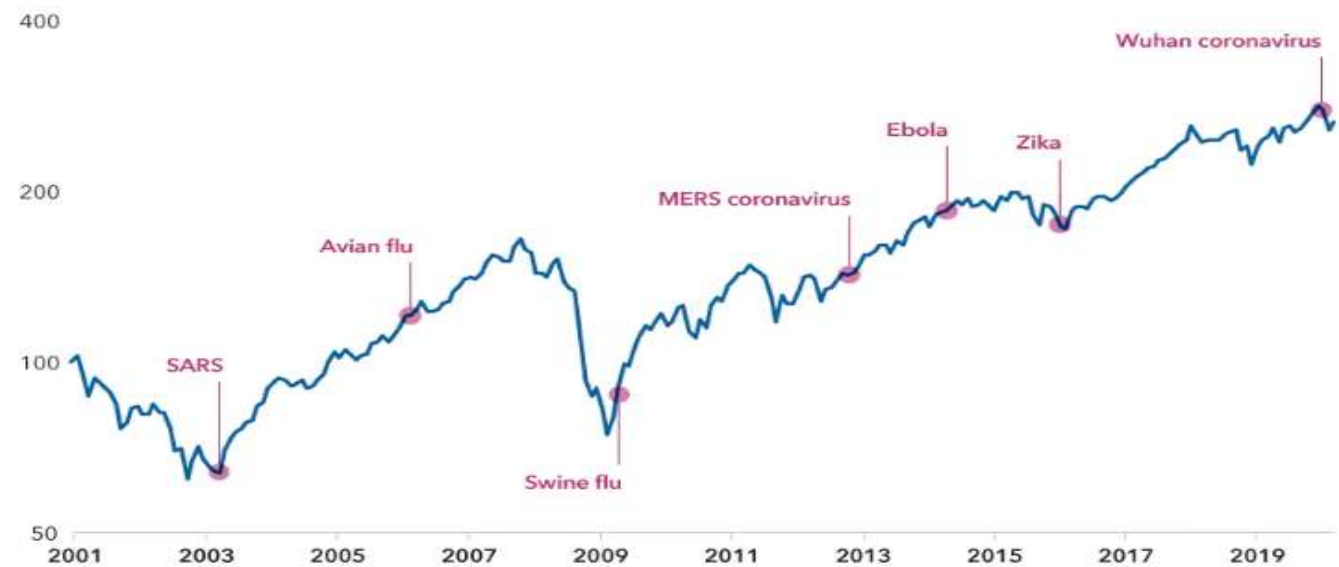


After a weekend of continued news of uncertainty about the coronavirus and tensions in oil markets, global equity indexes have started off the week in the red. We suspect this activity will continue in the face of a pandemic that has so many unknowns.

Market downturns are inevitable, but markets have bounced back from crises in the past. According to data from S&P, a market correction (a decline of 10% or more) has happened nearly every year from 1950 – 2019. We have to put these current events in historical perspective. Global equity markets have managed to push through previous viral outbreaks around the world. This isn't a prediction of what will happen in the future, but it does give us a framework for where we are today.

Global equity markets have powered through past viral outbreaks

MSCI ACWI index levels



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, RIMES, MSCI. As of 3/2/20. Chart shown on a logarithmic scale. Total return index levels in USD, indexed to 100 on 12/31/2000. Disease labels are estimates of when the outbreak was first reported.

Keep in mind that 11 years ago this month, the bull market rally began. There has been unprecedented growth in equity markets and equally impressive annualized returns since the rally began, even through March 6, 2020.

As a team we stress and advocate for long term investment planning and continue to do so today. It's important to resist the urge to sell into these turbulent markets. When we designed our investment and financial planning recommendations with you during quieter market times, it was in order to weather these more challenging times, too.

As always, we are here to answer your questions and be a sounding board for your concerns. We welcome your calls and hope you will reach out to us.