**Researching Public Companies** 4.30.20

A primer on two methods to use to research public companies. Here using CVS in method 1, and using Walgreens in method 2, as examples.

**Method 1** – using the company’s web site. For most companies it is the *name*.com. If name.com doesn’t work go to Google, or any browser, and query the name. Click on the correct search result.

For CVS: **CVSHealth.com**

You may be presented with shopping options, but to uncover corporate information look in the topmost ribbon banner, or at the very bottom of the page for: **Investors, Investor Relations, Newsroom, Press releases**

Then click on financial information or SEC (Securities Exchange Commission) filings.

**Press releases** will contain any public information released by the company including adding or decreasing employees, opening or closing of stores, financial results, etc.

The SEC mandates that public companies must file the following reports on a timely basis:

* 10-Q Quarterly report
* 10-K Annual report
* Form 4 Changes in ownership
* Form 8K Current report- a significant change in the company’s business
* Proxy List of Directors, qualifications and compensation

**Forms 10 K and Q** will provide detailed information on the company’s operations including Income, Balance sheet and cash flow statements.

**Events + Presentations** will contain Management presentations to the financial community which will typicallyinclude the company’s plan for growth as well as a good summary of financial information and historical growth

**Method 2** – using Yahoo.finance.com to research companies. Type in the name of the company to find the symbol. For this example, the legal business name for Walgreens is:

Walgreens Booth Alliance, hence the symbol: **WBA.**

Clicking on the symbol, you will see the following:

The stock price in bold numbers

Underneath you will see the following headings:

**Summary** which reflects current info on stock price and company valuation

**Chart** will provide you with historical stock pricing

**Profile** is a description of the company’s business, key executives, headquarters address and phone number, link to corporate website

**Financials** contain Income, Balance sheet and Cash flow statements

Scroll down further for: **News, Press Releases, Research Reports**