



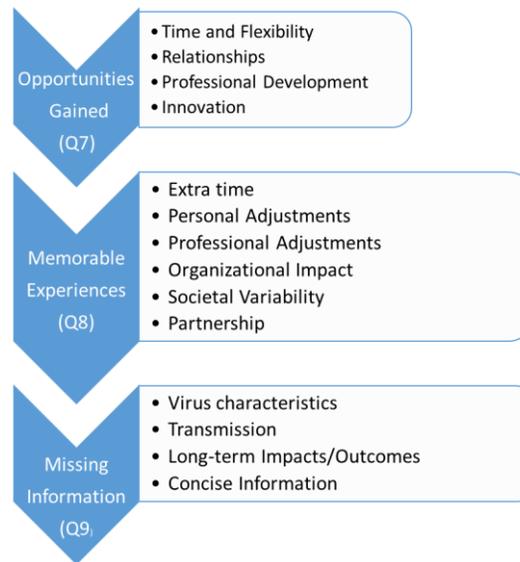
# Partners with a Common Purpose

## Thematic Analysis of the Pandemic Response Survey

PwCP conducted a pre-conference survey before the 2020 Food Safety Summit that included a section with COVID-19 related questions. We identified several common themes associated with the survey responses which highlights both the professional and personal impact that the pandemic has had on the participants' lives. We captured these findings in the analysis and summary below. We will have an opportunity to reflect back on this once the pandemic is over and help build out tools and resources for similar future incidents.

### A Thematic Analysis: Survey Results & Themes

Data collected from PwCP Stakeholder COVID-19 Survey



## **I. Opportunities Gained**

### **a. Professional**

- i. Introduced new ways of working – telework, virtual interactions, more flex time
- ii. Provided new opportunities to work on different projects/tasks and with different groups/teams
- iii. Provided more development/learning opportunities – more online training, more time to train
- iv. Less travel and more focus on projects, learning, and catch-up
- v. Increase in non-traditional tools and processes – innovation, virtual tools, larger audiences
- vi. Increased visibility of what our profession/sector can offer to support our communities

### **b. Personal**

- i. Better work/life balance – able to catch up on home projects, spend time with family, try new hobbies
- ii. More time with family/friends/pets – reconnecting to home life
- iii. More focus or affirmation of what is important in life
- iv. Save time/money from reduced/no commute

## **II. Memorable Experiences**

### **a. Professional**

- i. Learned to adjust to constantly changing circumstances
- ii. Developed ways to address pandemic restrictions/guidance and obtain the necessary supplies
- iii. Pivoted to provide support where needed
- iv. Formed new partnerships to ensure community safety and wellbeing
- v. Learned to deal with more or unfamiliar volatile situations

### **b. Personal**

- i. Learned to cope with the stress and fear a new, emerging danger
- ii. Developed resiliency in how to adjust daily life to fit within pandemic restrictions/guidelines – work from home, home schooling, no day care, elderly care
- iii. Provided support and comfort to others who are suffering from pandemic related issues
- iv. Dealt with personal or professional loss (death, job loss, lock down, etc)

## **III. Missing Information**

### **a. Short Term – lack of knowledge & clear communication**

- i. Introduction – what is COVID-19, where did it come from, will I/we catch it
- ii. Protection – how do we protect ourselves, our families and our communities from it – CDC and WHO guidance, monitoring incidence, adjusting/updating protocols as needed
- iii. Prevention – how do we prevent it now and in the future, will the vaccines be effective, what side effects or unforeseen consequences might they generate

### **b. Long Term – what happens after the pandemic**

- i. What are the long-term impacts to society – what will the new normal look like
- ii. What are the long-term impacts to our health and wellness – pandemic fallout, vaccine reactions, endemic impact

- iii. Lessons Learned – Future Preparedness – how can we use both the experiences and outcomes of this pandemic to prepare for potential national and global crisis situations in order to respond more quickly and effectively while minimizing damage to our communities

### **Conclusion**

What we learned is while each participant had their own experiences (both positive and negative) during the pandemic, there were underlying themes around how it affected them both professionally and personally. While most people have experienced some level of heightened stress, most can also find something good that came out of the situation. The pandemic has highlighted an ongoing need for adaptability, creativity and connection. And communication is key, even when dealing with an unknown. And lastly, everyone should understand they are not alone – physically, mentally, financially, etc. As the pandemic wraps up, it will be our job to help sustain and build on positive outcomes that have evolved, support our community's recovery from the stress, anxiety, and frustration caused by pandemic and to lean into the "new" normal and make the good outcomes a daily part of our life.