

# SMALL STABLE COHORTS

Minimize Risk and Maximize Relationships to Accelerate Learning in the Era of COVID-19

## WHAT ARE COHORTS?



A cohort (or a “pod”) is a group of students and staff who stay together throughout the school day for all activities (e.g., meals, indoor play, after-school programs, etc.) Cohorts always stay the same, with the same students and teachers throughout the term, and should not mix with other groups – in or outside of school.

## WHY IS COHORTING EFFECTIVE?

Cohorts are effective tools for teaching and learning because they foster relationships and connection amongst members while also keeping them safe.



SAFETY



RELATIONSHIPS



LEARNING

## WHAT ARE SOME KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR COHORTING?



Limit interactions between cohorts, including interactions between staff assigned to different cohorts.



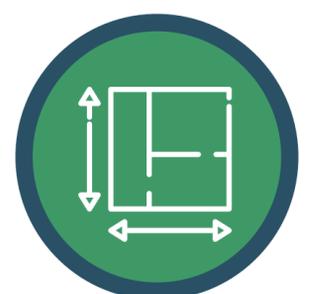
To the extent possible, assign children who live together or carpool together to the same cohort.



Try to avoid moving children from one cohort to another, unless needed for a child’s overall safety and wellness.



Keep cohorts separate from one another for special activities such as art, music, PE, after school programs, etc.



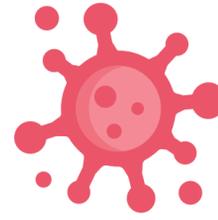
As much as possible, assign dedicated space to cohorts.

# HOW DOES COHORTING IMPROVE SAFETY?

Cohorts can only work when all members are vigilant about limiting interaction with people outside of the cohort. Here's why:



Everytime a new person comes in contact with the cohort...

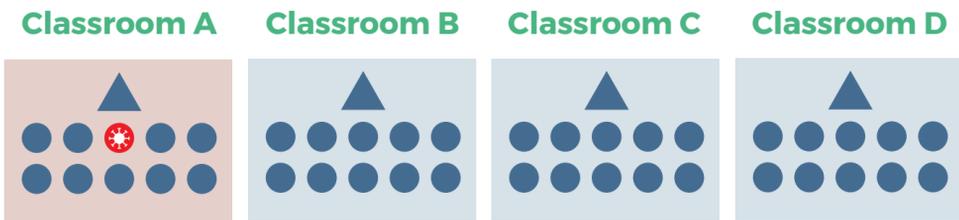


...they are essentially bringing with them every person they have been in contact with.

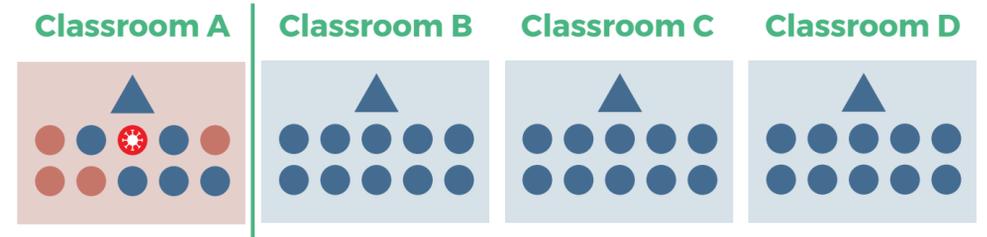
## WHAT HAPPENS IF GROUPS MIX?

### WHEN COHORTS ARE STABLE

**1.** A student in Classroom A contracted the virus outside of school. Everyone in that classroom has now been exposed to the virus.

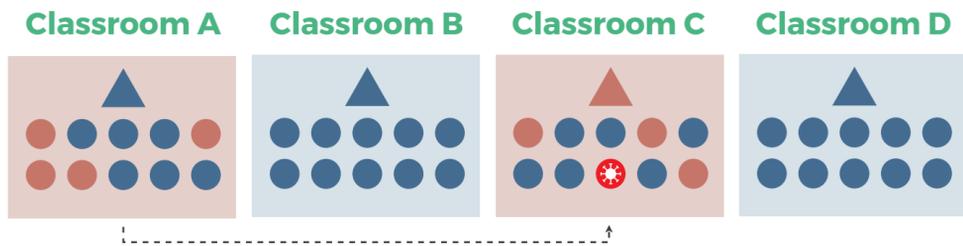


**2.** If the cohort is stable and students don't mix, the virus is limited to one group that can be easily reached, notified and quarantined. The rest of the school can remain open.

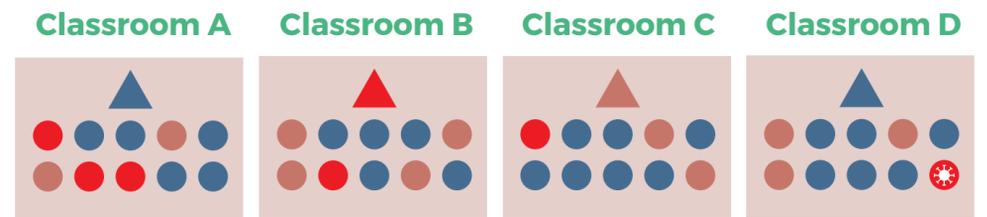


### WHEN COHORTS ARE NOT STABLE

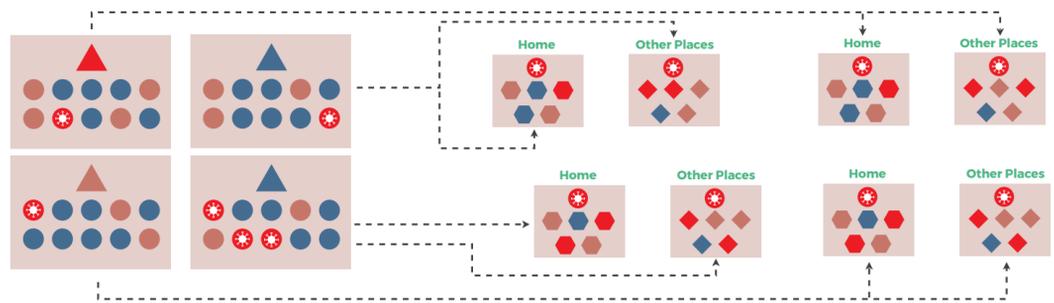
**1.** If cohorts are not stable and members are allowed to mix with others, when they move to their next class or group they expose more people to the virus.



**2.** If this happens, schools may not be able to contain or trace the infection. Isolating individual cohorts will not work and the school will have to stop in-person instruction.



**3.** The impact of mixing also goes beyond the school: each exposed student could also take the virus back home to their families and any other groups they are a part of. The greater the number of groups they are a part of, the greater the risk for everyone.



**KEY**

**Shapes**  
 ● Family Member    ◆ Other People    ▲ Teacher    ● Student

**Colors**  
 ■ Unexposed to virus    ■ Exposed to virus    ■ Sick with virus

## 6 KEY CONSIDERATIONS

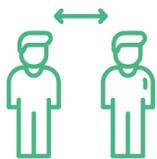
In addition to cohorting, consider these six key considerations when preparing for in-person instruction:



COHORTING



FACE COVERINGS



PHYSICAL DISTANCING



HANDWASHING



CLEANING AND SANITATION



TESTING AND TRACING