Late last night, the CDPH released [revised guidance for cohorts/small groups](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/small-groups-child-youth.aspx), which most significantly redefined the allowed configuration of up to 14 children and two adults to also include “no more than 16 individuals total.” This apparently allows configurations such as seven students and seven aides with one teacher in the room (as long as the other cohort rules against inter-cohort mixing, etc. are followed). Early next week, C4OB, GR, and Legal will more thoroughly analyze the changes, including discussing them with CDPH if necessary, but for now here is the relevant language:

Definitions: Cohort: a cohort is a stable group of no more than 14 children or youth and no more than two supervising adults (or a configuration of no more than 16 individuals total in the cohort) in a supervised environment in which supervising adults and children stay together for all activities (e.g., meals, recreation, etc.), and avoid contact with people outside of their group in the setting.

Cohort Size: Cohorts must be limited to no more than 14 children and youth and no more than two supervising adults, or a configuration of no more than 16 individuals total (children and youth or adults) in the cohort.

This also appears to be added guidance:

Considerations for Staff: Supervising adults should be assigned to one cohort and must work solely with that cohort, unless serving children five years of age and younger in which case an adult may be assigned to no more than 2 cohorts.

A reminder: this guidance is technically only relevant to LEAs in counties in Tier I/Purple status, since those in the other tiers are not restricted to providing in-person instruction through use of cohorts (or under an elementary waiver). That being said, LEAs in Tiers II-IV are not required to provide in-person instruction (at all) and may choose to use cohorts if they wish (something we would advocate be done, as these small group configurations with restrictions on mixing, etc. are preferable to “business as usual” arrangements). And again, the overwhelming majority of issues surrounding any return to work (whether virtual, hybrid, or in person) are [subject to bargaining](https://m.usw.org/workplaces/public-sector/2015-conference-material/5-Subjects-of-Bargaining.pdf).