



Following is an exhaustive list of questions to answer. These questions have been generated by the Hayground Camp Team internally as well as gathered from parents and staff members. Our job is to find/make decisions about answers to all of them. This is an ongoing process. Check back regularly to see new questions and new answers. The newest questions will always be posted to the TOP of the document. So if you are coming back again and again, you can focus on the newest questions and answers first. (Some questions have evolving answers.)

**What is the rationale behind declaring that Hayground will run as Hayground Classic in late January when there is so much time between now and summer and when anything might happen with regard to COVID between now and then?**

Here's how we are thinking of it. We either plan for what we want and then scale back or we plan for the current state of things and scale up. The problem is that it is quite difficult, if not impossible, to scale up late in the game. Think staffing, enrollment, programming. It can all be scaled back. In addition, based on the direction of vaccine distribution and falling cases *and* based on the nature of our camp as an outdoor venture, we feel quite confident that by the time summer comes, we will be able to run Hayground Classic even if there are some modifications to our ordinary approach.

**Will all staff members be vaccinated by summer? Will they be required to be?**

They will not be required to be. However, in my conversations with staff members, most desire to get vaccinated and will qualify to be vaccinated due to their work in what is categorized as childcare. So we anticipate that many if not all of our staff members will be vaccinated by summer.

**Will campers or their families be required to be vaccinated in order to attend camp?**

No. We will likely not have begun vaccinating children by July. But if most adults (staff members and parents) are vaccinated by then and the fact that the science tells us that children are not contracting COVID or carrying/transmitting COVID the way we once thought they would, we don't feel it is necessary to require campers and families to be vaccinated in order to come to camp.

**Will campers be required to wear masks? (Evolving answer)**

That is very unlikely. Last summer we, as a country, county and town, were in a much worse place than we will be this summer. And last summer, according to the Suffolk County Health Department, only staff members were required to wear masks. Which, of course, begs the question, Will staff members be required to wear masks. Possibly. Check back closer to summer for a more definitive answer on this.

**Will drop off and pick up return to normal? Or will campers be dropped off straight from their cars? (Evolving answer)**





We are going to try to find a way to provide for both drop-off methods this summer. Some families really enjoyed being able to drop their kids off straight from their cars. Others really missed being able to walk the kids in. Assuming safety protocols allow for parents to walk campers in, we hope to be able to offer both options. We are working on a plan for this.

**Will families have to follow the travel restriction protocols? (Testing and quarantining)**

If there are still travel restriction protocols in place from the state and/or county, yes. If not, no.

**Will groups be back to their traditional size or will they be smaller?**

Groups will be slightly smaller. We have reduced every group in camp by an average of 15%. We have also reduced our counselor numbers slightly.

**Will cohorts be co-mingled? (Evolving answer)**

We hope so. Part of what defines Hayground Classic is the mixing of groups. That is how we create variety and diversity in social opportunity. However, this is an example of a modification that we may have to make if safety demands it. We could run camp without mixing groups. But we'd rather not.

**Will special areas get sufficient time for cleaning between groups?**

Yes. But keep in mind that the science has evolved on this point. One year ago, all the talk was about surfaces and their transmission danger. Now, scientists believe that surfaces are a much more minimal spreader. That said, of course we will be cleaning surfaces. Why take the risk?

**How is camp going to run larger events such as puppet shows, follies, 500 & family BBQ?**

Great question. This is another example of something we could modify. These events are important parts of us coming together as a full community. But if it's a question of having camp without the Follies and not having camp at all, we will have camp without the Follies. But it also may not be that binary. We could, for instance, have the Follies outside. We could have the Hayground 500 but not the Follies. We could have three different Field Days with smaller portions of camp. There's a lot we can do beyond running full steam and cancelling. Note that this is the way we are thinking about a lot of our program.

**Will certain activities have a maximum camper limit? (Evolving answer)**

Certain activities always *have* had a maximum camper limit. We only allow 12 kids in the kitchen. We only allow 15 kids in Woodshop. And most of those caps have to do with spatial considerations. Now, that thinking just makes more sense than ever before. The question is really, Will activities that don't ordinarily have caps now have caps. That really depends. Check back closer to summer for more on this.

**Will we provide bussing again?**





We will not be providing bussing this summer. This is the only official modification we have made so far. It seems to us that putting a bunch of kids of mixed ages and mixed groups in an enclosed space for an extended period of time is an unnecessary risk.

**Will there be off campus trips and activities? (Evolving answer)**

We are not yet sure whether or not we will be running Field Trips and Beach Trips for the big kids. But we do see a difference between bussing (as discussed above) and Beach Trips. The kids are all in the same group. They are older and can be counted on to be more responsible. They all get on and off at the same point. The trip is only 15 minutes. But we still may not be able to do it. Check back closer to summer for answers on that.

**Which programs will be back this summer? Which will not be back? What new programs will be in place? (Evolving answer)**

All programs will be back this summer as of now. In addition, we are starting a surf program for the big kids who go to the beach and a fencing program open to all campers. More to come.

**How (if at all) will each program be modified to account for COVID? (Evolving answer)**

The short answer is that we don't yet know. We are thinking about each activity and thinking about how to lean towards the following: outside, lower numbers, on the move. Check back later for more on this.

**How much of a pod approach do you take in the school vs what you're planning on for a 'traditional' Hayground? (Evolving answer)**

The school is very much "podded". Classes stay separate. Camp is a different story. Partly because the world will be (we hope) a different and far safer place come July. And partly because we can be outside upwards of 90% of the time at camp where school needs to be inside sometimes. So we are not taking a pod approach for camp as of now. However, that could change if circumstances demand.

**Hi! this is our first summer at Hayground- can you give us an idea of what the schedule is like for the day? or is there a sample schedule on the website? Thanks!**

We have just added a [sample schedule](#) to the website. Note that this is the schedule from 2019. It will undoubtedly change for this summer. But you'll get a sense of how it works, the kinds of activities that are offered and the kind of choice that kids have. Keep in mind that this schedule does NOT include special guest programming like Hip Hop and Trapeze and it does not include big events (that supplant regularly scheduled programming) like the Follies, Field Day, The Hayground 500.

**How many kids are at the camp in total and in each age group?**

Each week is different. But we have caps on each group in camp based on the size of their home space, their developmental needs and their supervisory needs. We have some groups with a cap of 22 and others with a cap of





35. The total number of campers in camp at any given time is somewhere between 225 and 325. This year, we will likely not have more than 300 in camp at any given time as we have reduced our numbers.

What is the day like for the 4 year olds (sorry- mine is 4.)

Please see the [sample schedule](#) we have posted to our website thanks to your question!

### **How many activities are spent outdoors vs indoors?**

Every group has an indoor classroom to use as their headquarters. But they also each have an outdoor space. This year we will be using outdoor spaces as much as possible. All of our activities (where kids spend a majority of their time) are outdoors with the exception of the kitchen, the art room and the gym. We are working on alternatives for all three of those activities. And, if need be, we will require masks in those spaces which are indoors. The science has evolved on this point, too. Being outside is now being talked about as being equal to mask wearing in terms of protection against transmission. Since being outside is important to us anyway, this is an easy one for us.

### **Will you be serving lunch this year?**

Yes! We are working with L&W Market to provide healthy yummy lunches for kids who want to sign up. Sign up happens the week before delivery. (So you order by the Thursday of Week 1 for your Week 2 lunches.) And the lunch program is a week-long commitment. (You cannot order for a day or two.) You will learn more about this as we get closer to summer. Kids who do not order from our lunch program bring their own lunches. We provide refrigeration in every classroom.

### **Is there any instruction during swimming time or is it just supervised time in the pool?**

Mostly, it is fun time in the pool. Cool off. Hang out with your friends. Have fun. However, if a child is motivated to learn to swim to pass the deep-end test, we will absolutely help them to get there. If a child is not interested in learning to swim, we do not provide swim lessons. This speaks to almost every program in camp. The motivation must come from the camper. Motivated campers will find that there are almost unlimited resources in the form of kind, generous, knowledgeable counselors to support them in any area in which they want to improve.

### **Is camp mostly comprised of kids who go the whole summer or two-week increments? And also will they get the experience in only two weeks? Will they be stimulated enough if they stay 4 or more?**

There are kids who come for 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 4 weeks, 5 weeks, 6 weeks, 7 weeks, 8 weeks. We design every week to be awesome and any camper who comes for a minimum of 2 weeks will have a well-rounded Hayground experience. The longer you stay the more it builds and the deeper the experience will be.

**We have a 3 year old (turning 4 by camp) and it's her first time. We're trying to decide whether full day will be too much for her given it's her first experience with camp. Any thoughts about half vs full day for a first time camper of that age?**





We do not recommend that 3 or 4 year olds stay for full day (until 3). In most cases, they are exhausted and really need to go home and rest their bodies and minds. The only reason we offer aftercamp to a handful of 4 year olds is for the convenience of parents who also have older children in camp. For the most part, our 1:00-3:00 program for 4 year olds is swimming and playground so that, if they are here, they are relaxed.

**Do you find kids who stay for 8 weeks feel like it's monotonous?**

Ha! What a great question! Absolutely not. If you look at the schedule, you might think, Wait. They have the same schedule every week? But if you think about the schedule from the camper perspective, you realize that though the schedule is the same, because there are choices every period of every day, every week has the potential of being entirely different than the last. On top of that, even if you were to choose Art every Tuesday second period, Art would be a different activity every week. On top of *that*, we throw big events into the mix most weeks which create additional wildcards in the experience. And on top of *that*, there are special programs that only run certain weeks. And that's just programming. Campers are coming in contact with different campers, changing social dynamics and they themselves are changing and growing all the time! So the answer is a resounding no. Camp is so much fun and always has more to offer.

**Are there considerations to scale down group sizes and remove mixing groups while still maintaining Classic Hayground camp? Is that viable?**

It is possible. We have already reduced group sizes by a little bit. If we had to, we would reduce them further. We could remove mixing groups to an extent. Again, we hope we do not have to do this as mixing is at the core of what makes Hayground Hayground.

**Since different kids are mixing in different activities, how will you be mitigating Covid risk?**

COVID risk is reduced on a number of different planes.

- Masks vs No Masks
- Outside vs Inside
- Mixing vs Pods
- Moving vs Stationary
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**What is Hayground 'classic'?**

Hayground Classic is the name we are using to describe a return to our former glory. Tons of activities. Groups of kids of similar age traveling from one activity to the next. Choice. Big events. As opposed to Hayground Deconstructed which combined groups and activities.

**What's the cap this year for 6 and 7 year old groups?**





**Also, with the possibility of Hayground not requiring staff/campers to wear masks, how/will Hayground impose social distancing measures, if any?**

We will not. We will lean on being outside and on the move.

**What is the masking policy for staff/kids?**

We don't know yet. Check back for more as we get closer to summer.

