

Guidance

# Childcare: reporting children's accidents and injuries

Find out whether you need to tell Ofsted about an accident, injury or illness a child suffers while in your care.

From:

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Published

19 February 2020

Last updated

21 February 2022 —

Contents

- — [Serious injuries, accidents and illnesses](#)
- — [Minor injuries](#)
- — [Eyes](#)
- — [Substances and electricity](#)

As an Ofsted-registered childminder, nanny or daycare, you must [report all serious childcare incidents \(https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-serious-childcare-incident\)](#) that occur to children while they are in your care. This includes all serious accidents, injuries and illnesses.

You don't need to report a minor accident, injury or illness suffered by a child in your care.

## Serious injuries, accidents and illnesses

You must tell Ofsted about any of the following:

- anything that requires resuscitation
- admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours
- a broken bone or fracture
- dislocation of any major joint, such as the shoulder, knee, hip or elbow
- any loss of consciousness
- severe breathing difficulties, including asphyxia
- anything leading to hypothermia or heat-induced illness

## **Minor injuries**

You do not need to tell Ofsted about minor injuries, even if treated at a hospital (for less than 24 hours). These include:

- animal and insect bites, such as a bee sting that doesn't cause an allergic reaction
- sprains, strains and bruising, for example if a child sprains their wrist tripping over their shoelaces
- cuts and grazes
- minor burns and scalds
- dislocation of minor joints, such as a finger or toe
- wound infections

## **Eyes**

You must report to Ofsted if a child suffers any loss of sight, whether it is temporary or permanent. You must also tell us about any:

- penetrating injury to the child's eye
- chemical or hot metal burn to the child's eye

## **Substances and electricity**

If a child in your care suffers any injury from, or requires medical treatment for, any of the following situations you must tell Ofsted:

- from absorption of any substance:
  - by inhalation
  - by ingestion
  - through the skin
- from an electric shock or electrical burn
- where there is reason to believe it resulted from exposure to:
  - a harmful substance
  - a biological agent
  - a toxin

- an infected material

Published 19 February 2020

Last updated 21 February 2022 - [hide all updates](#)

## 21 February 2022

Removed 'any confirmed cases of COVID-19' from list. As of 21 February childcare providers do not have to report any COVID-19 cases at their setting.

## 25 September 2020

Added the requirement to notify Ofsted of any confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) in staff or children.

## 19 February 2020

First published.

[↑ Contents](#)

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[Tell Ofsted about an incident: children's social care notification \(/guidance/tell-ofsted-about-an-incident-childrens-social-care-notification\)](/guidance/tell-ofsted-about-an-incident-childrens-social-care-notification)

[Report a serious child safeguarding incident \(/guidance/report-a-serious-child-safeguarding-incident\)](/guidance/report-a-serious-child-safeguarding-incident)

[Health protection in children and young people settings, including education \(/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities\)](/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities)

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[Becoming a nanny \(/government/collections/becoming-a-nanny-and-running-your-business\)](/government/collections/becoming-a-nanny-and-running-your-business)

[Starting a nursery or other daycare and running the business \(/government/collections/starting-a-nursery-or-other-daycare-and-running-the-](/government/collections/starting-a-nursery-or-other-daycare-and-running-the-)



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[Becoming a childminder and running your business](#)

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