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U.S.

# Secret Service Says Cocaine Was Found at White House

Investigation is under way to determine who left the drug in a work area of the West Wing

By [Catherine Lucey](#) [Follow](#)

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WASHINGTON—The Secret Service said Wednesday that lab tests showed a substance found at the White House over the weekend was cocaine.

The White House complex was closed Sunday evening after the Secret Service found what it described at the time as an unknown item in a work area. The District of Columbia Fire Department was called to evaluate the item and found it to be nonhazardous.

The item was found in a work area of the West Wing. A spokesman for the D.C. Fire Department said the department responded at the request of the Secret Service and was released when it was determined the item wasn't a threat.

A Secret Service investigation into how the substance entered the White House is under way, the agency said.

President Biden and his family weren't at the White House at the time. They departed for Camp David on Friday and returned Tuesday.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said at Wednesday's briefing with reporters that the substance was found in a "heavily traveled area" of the West Wing, but declined to specify exactly where in the complex it was discovered.

She said that West Wing tours were given by staff on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, raising the possibility that the substance could have been left by a visitor.

"I'm not going to speculate on who it was," Jean-Pierre said, and referred most questions to the Secret Service.

—Annie Linskey contributed to this article.

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