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Tarrant County Public Health has confirmed today the first human case of West Nile Virus in Burleson in 2012. The person who is affected lives in the 900 block of Timber Ridge Court in the north part of Burleson.

On July 16, Burleson confirmed two positive West Nile Virus (WNV) mosquito pools inside the city limits. The two positive mosquito pools were in the area of Lena Lane and Robin Court. Residents of those areas were notified by the City via educational door hangars. On July 20, another confirmed WNV mosquito pool was reported from the Burleson Police Department, located at the corner of Renfro Street and Johnson Avenue. In addition, two other mosquito pools collected within the vicinity of the police department also tested positive. The first human case was confirmed July 24.

According to Lisa Duello, director of neighborhood services for the City, the City has not received any complaints in the Timber Ridge Court area.

“Code enforcement surveyed the area this afternoon to look for areas of stagnant water but found none. We have not placed any traps in that area,” Duello said.

West Nile Virus is spread by infected mosquitoes. In most case, mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Infected mosquitoes can then spread West Nile Virus to humans and other animals when they bite.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), some people - up to 20 percent - may experience mild symptoms, including fever, headache, and body aches, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash on the chest, stomach and back. Symptoms can last for as short as a few days, though even healthy people have become sick for several weeks.

About one in 150 people infected with WNV will develop severe illness. The symptoms can include high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, vision loss, numbness and paralysis. These symptoms may last several weeks, and neurological effects may be permanent.

The City works with Tarrant County Public Health to conduct surveillance for mosquito-borne illnesses. The City does not spray for mosquitoes, because

spraying is temporary and affects the adult mosquitoes in the area of the spraying. Instead, the City uses prevention – reducing, eliminating and treating mosquito breeding areas.

Mosquito season in Burleson is typically May-October with August as the peak month. Residents should follow the three D's, as outlined on the City website's Mosquito Control page, www.burlesontx.com/mosquitocontrol. You can also find out more about the prevention program by going to the FAQ for mosquitoes listed at the top right hand corner of that same page. If you are concerned about stagnant water, you may report it online by clicking on "Report Stagnant Water" at the bottom of the Mosquito Control page.

Two other sources include the CDC's Fact Sheet, <http://tinyurl.com/64d85>, and Tarrant County Public Health, <http://tinyurl.com/ccousym>.