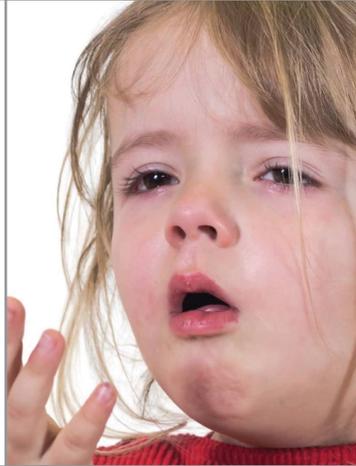




Budget cuts have left **Public Health - Seattle & King County** struggling to keep up with outbreaks – requiring shifting time away from important prevention activities.

MUMPS, FLU AND TB CASES COLLIDE



King County quickly found itself at the epicenter of a statewide mumps outbreak. As the first agency with multiple cases, disease investigators were called upon to find the source. As if 173 mumps cases since November isn't enough, staff at Public Health - Seattle & King County have also been overwhelmed by multiple outbreaks of influenza and tuberculosis at the same time. One active case of TB potentially exposed dozens of patients at Harborview last month. When staff are in continuous response mode, prevention activities are put on hold which puts the community at risk of disease or spreading illness.

UNSAFE WATER PROMPTS BOIL ALERTS



On Mercer Island, a water-boil alert last year resulted in 62 licensed food establishments being closed twice over a two month period and a one day school closure. Schools were reopened only after they had been sanitized and students were provided bottled water. During the alert, Mercer Island's grocery store had to dispose of all food touched by tap water which included vegetables, meat, and fish. These closures have a significant impact on local businesses, especially small or family-owned establishments.

NOROVIRUS CLOSES SEATTLE BUILDING



In December 2015, more than 200 people were sickened at a catered event held in the Russell Investments Center Building in downtown Seattle. For two days, more than eight restaurants and cafes – as well as a catering operation – were closed for Public Health's investigation and a deep cleaning process. Additionally, the entire 17th floor of the building was shut down for cleaning. A foodborne illness event of this magnitude means pulling multiple teams out of the field for response, leaving other food establishments without routine inspections for an extended period of time.