

## Potato mop-top virus update February 2019

### Background

Potato mop-top virus (PMTV) was found in New Zealand in September 2018. Biosecurity New Zealand (a part of MPI) and Potatoes New Zealand (PNZ) have been working in partnership to manage the response. This includes joint decision-making and joint cost-sharing.

For more information, please visit the [Biosecurity New Zealand website](#), [Potatoes NZ website](#), or the [PMTV2018 Fact Sheet](#).

### Current situation

As of 11<sup>th</sup> February, there are 13 IPs and 18 SIPs. These have been found in the Mid to South Canterbury region.

(IP=infected paddock, SIP=suspected infected paddock)

### Planning for future management of the disease

Biosecurity New Zealand and PNZ are working together on what the management programme will look like.

PNZ is in the process of evaluating whether a Pest Management Plan will be a suitable method to prevent the further spread of PMTV. In order to establish this, PNZ will be consulting with growers, the wider industry and other interested parties.

As the current positives have been found in Canterbury, this work will initially be focussed on the Canterbury region. Scoping of the process is underway now. PNZ will be providing regular updates on this topic. Any enquiries on the Pest Management Plan process should be directed to [sue.wells@potatoesnz.co.nz](mailto:sue.wells@potatoesnz.co.nz)

### Managing the spread

You have an important role to play in protecting your farm, your region and the potato industry from biosecurity threats. If you suspect you have found PMTV on your property, contact the Biosecurity New Zealand Pests and Diseases hotline: **0800 80 99 66**.

PMTV can be spread on seed tubers, in soil associated with boots, in machinery, and in waste or by-products from potatoes, so on-farm hygiene practices and developing a robust farm biosecurity plan are vital to try to minimise and help control the spread of potato mop-top virus.

Specific on-farm management measures include:

- not growing potatoes in affected paddocks
- cleaning and/or disinfecting equipment, machinery and vehicles to avoid spreading soil between paddocks and properties
- using signage to ensure workers and visitors are aware of biosecurity hygiene practices

### Welfare support available

[Rural Support Trust](#)/Healthline: [0800 611 116](tel:0800611116) /Lifeline: 0800 111 757 /[Depression.org.nz](http://Depression.org.nz) or Depression Helpline: 0800 611 116/Alcohol Drug helpline: 0800 787 797 or text 8691/Your GP or Practice Nurse/[New National helpline service 1737 need to talk?](#) : Call or text 1737 to contact an intervention Counsellor. 24/7 service, free, confidential, and anonymous if required.