

We have a vacancy for a highly talented and experienced Plant Virology Manager to lead a team of eight. In this role you will work closely with the other laboratory managers in Entomology, Mycology and Bacteriology and Post Entry Quarantine & Botany.

- Minimum of a post-graduate university qualification (preferable doctoral) related to plant virology
- A strong knowledge of plant virus and virus-like diseases and molecular biology is essential
- A good knowledge of high through-put sequencing technologies is desirable
- Proven experience of managing and developing highly-qualified scientific staff and in leading a high performing team.
- Expert technical knowledge and broad experience of managing laboratory diagnostic programmes and processes.
- Expert operational management skills
- Proven leadership skills
- Excellent communication and written skills
- Experience of budget management

Mō te Manatū Ahu Matua - About MPI

The Ministry for Primary Industries is helping to seize export opportunities for our primary industries, improve sector productivity, ensure the food we produce is safe, increase sustainable resource use, and protect New Zealand from biological risk.

We are a team of experts with massive breadth of experience, offering opportunities to break out of our comfort zone and embrace intellectual and complex challenges.

To find out more about the Ministry and what we do please click [here](#)

About The Plant Health & Environment Laboratory (PHEL)

The Plant Health & Environment Laboratory is part of MPI's Diagnostic and Surveillance Services directorate (DSS). PHEL is the national plant pest reference laboratory for the identification of all suspected exotic, new and emerging pests and diseases, and arthropod pests affecting plants and the environment.

PHEL also provide diagnostic services to New Zealand's primary industries to facilitate trade. The laboratory is accredited to ISO17025 and the use of a quality assurance system is an integral part of our operations. These activities enable the management of risks associated with traded plants and plant products and maximise the opportunities to respond to biosecurity risks in New Zealand.

Ngā hua o te Mahi i te Manatū Ahu Matua: - Benefits of working at MPI

- Up to three additional (MPI holidays) leave days
- Career development and internal opportunities across the branch and organisation
- Wellness benefit for employees
- Comprehensive one-week MPI Induction Programme
- Parental leave ex-gratia payment
- Free annual flu vaccination
- Flexible working - we support work life balance and flexible work arrangements whenever possible

The salary for this role is circa \$108,000 to \$127,000 depending on skills and experience

[See the benefits of working at MPI](#)

Ngā Taki Whakahaumarū - Security checks

Low level Security Clearance

- most preferably a NZ citizen, who has **resided continuously in NZ** for at least the last **five (5) years**, OR
- is a citizen of, **and/or has resided continuously** in one or more of the following countries for the last **five (5) years**: either Australia, Canada, NZ, the United Kingdom (UK) or the United States of America (USA); **and** has a background history that is verifiable and can be assessed as appropriate by the NZ Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) towards a recommendation of suitability for a security clearance at this level.
- click [here](#) to find out more about the national security vetting process and access the eligibility [self-check](#) tool.

If you do not meet these minimum criteria, **we will not be able to accept** your application.

Whakamātau Whakapōauau me te Waipiro - Drug and Alcohol Screening

Please note, given this position is safety sensitive the preferred applicant/s for the position will be required to undergo a drug and alcohol pre-employment screening test. Further information on this process can be found on our careers site under the application process, on pre-employment checks page.

To join a diverse and interesting organisation that offers a wide range of career opportunities click on our link below!

Me pēhea te tuku tono - How to Apply

To view the position description and/or apply for the role please click “APPLY FOR THIS JOB” or visit the MPI Careers Site. For tracking and reporting purposes, all applications must be submitted through our online careers portal.

To apply for this role you must hold the right to work in New Zealand or be eligible to obtain it – click [here](#) to find out more about work visa eligibility and options.

Please be advised that due to the Covid-19 virus some interviews may be held via Skype. MPI is keeping close watch on advice from the Ministry of Health, keeping our staff and candidate’s safe is our top priority. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the recruitment adviser if you have any questions.

The closing date is 21 May 2020 (1 month)

If you have any questions about the role, please email jolene.ingram@mpi.govt.nz

The Ministry for Primary Industries is committed to providing a working environment that embraces and values inclusion and diversity. Your unique talents and experience will help us deliver exceptional services to our communities in Aotearoa. In return you'll enjoy an inclusive and flexible working environment in a diverse team of people while you're growing your career here in NZ and internationally. We actively encourage applications from all backgrounds. If you have any support or access requirements, we encourage you to tell us when you apply so that we can assist you through the recruitment process.