Mycoplasma bovis is an unwanted organism in NZ. It is important for all farmers to contact their veterinarian and/or MPI if they see the following unusual signs in their herd.

**Abortions**
- Slips, early calves, small calves

**Mastitis**
- Swollen (rubbery quarters), involves multiple quarters
- Not painful or hot
- Non responsive to treatment
- Affected quarters will rapidly dry off
- Cow is not sick

**Lame cows with swollen legs/joints**
- Painful and hot

**Calves / young stock**

**Lame calves with swollen legs/joints**
- Painful and hot

**Fading calves**
- Inflammation of the joints, and sometimes the brain

**Ear infections**
- Droopy ear
- Ear discharge
- Head tilt

**Pneumonia**
- Hacking cough

**Conjunctivitis**
- Sticky eyes, white eyes

**Key messages**

**Why is it important**
- Production limiting disease.
- Hard to treat, causes unresponsive mastitis.
- Hard to test for.

**What you need to be aware of**
- Spread mainly by close contact between animals and feeding milk from infected cows to calves.
- Incoming stock and nose-to-nose contact over boundaries are the biggest risk of bringing the disease onto your farm.
- Equipment used on animals must be cleaned thoroughly between farms.
- Don’t wait if you have animals with suspicious signs, early intervention from a veterinarian is important.
- In some cases calves can be infected and show no signs of disease.

Call your veterinarian as soon as possible if:
- These signs appear at higher than normal rates.
- Several animals show the above signs.
- Individual animals show several of the above signs.
- Animals don’t respond to normal treatments.
- These signs are present in different classes of stock at the same time eg. mastitis in cows and arthritis in calves.