



MMRRC Vendor Approval Information

Updated February 16, 2016

Facilities:

The MMRRC vivarium facilities are associated with the four national MMRRC centers (University of California, Davis; University of Missouri; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; and The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor).

For each MMRRC vivarium housing facility minimum standards for housing and husbandry are as follows:

- 1) Personal independently ventilated caging
- 2) Autoclaved caging and cage supplies
- 3) Autoclaved or irradiated feed
- 4) Filtered water which is further treated (UV sterilization, acidification, autoclaved)
- 5) All cages are changed within Class II Type A2 Biological safety hood/change station
- 6) Bedding is autoclaved

Dedicated husbandry staff is utilized for each vivarium housing facility. Facility dedicated personal protective equipment is utilized consisting of dedicated shoes and/or shoe covers *, surgical face mask, hair bonnet, nitrile or latex gloves**, and Tyvek sleeves/autoclaved long sleeve facility dedicated scrubs or long-sleeve disposable gowns.

Aside from sentinels or recipient females (see below), no live animals are allowed entry into the facility. All incoming animals are embryo rederived into the facility using pseudopregnant recipient females generated within the facility. The breeder stock is replenished regularly by embryo rederivation.

There are dedicated procedure rooms in each facility where the embryo implantation surgeries occur. Recipient female animals return into the animal housing rooms from the surgical procedure rooms. Recipient females are maintained in these rooms through weaning of their pups. Upon weaning the recipient females are sent for a comprehensive pathology screening (see sample report for pathogens tested) before weanlings are released into other holding rooms within the facility or shipped to their order location.

** MMRRC at MU does not use shoe covers/dedicated shoes.*

***MMRRC at MU and UNC double glove.*

All cage changes occur under a HEPA filtered change station hood. The surface of the hood, inner walls of the hood, and gloved hands are wiped between each cage to prevent cross contamination of cages.

Air handling within the barrier housing space mouse rooms is positive pressure relative to return corridors and individual anterooms. Each room is individually supplied with HEPA filtered air and separate exhaust. Rooms are controlled for temperature and maintained within the temperature guidelines outlined in the ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Animals.

Sentinels:

Outbred CD-1 or Swiss Webster animals obtained in-house or from an approved vendor* are used as dirty bedding sentinels. Sentinel animals are placed at 3 weeks of age and tested at least quarterly (Age 16 weeks) at all facility locations. The sentinels are placed on the bottom row of all racks. They are exclusively exposed to the dirty bedding on that same rack. Any positive result will be confirmed according to the MMRRRC animal health protocol. Any confirmed facility outbreaks are reported to the MMRRRC Coordinating Committee and the customer notification and pathogen remediation protocol is initiated.

Each embryo recipient animal receives a comprehensive screening at the time that their litters are weaned. Weanlings from these recipient animals are not released for movement into holding rooms within the facility or approved for shipment until the results of the recipient screen are known.

All facilities are fully AAALAC accredited. While a variety of pathogen testing labs are utilized (Comparative Pathology Laboratory UC Davis, IDEXX BioResearch, Charles River Diagnostics Laboratory, and Jackson Laboratory), health testing is consistent with Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA) guidelines.

Quarantine:

No live animals are allowed entry into the vivarium housing facilities. All entering animal lines are embryo rederived into the facility using pseudopregnant recipients generated within the facility.

Material entry into the facility:

Bedding is autoclaved into the facility. Feed is either autoclaved into the facility or irradiated feed is vacuum packaged and disinfected prior to entry. All caging supplies are autoclaved into the facility.

All shipping crates for animal orders are autoclaved into the facility and animal shipments are packaged inside of the room in which their health report is listed. All shipments are sent through certified animal couriers.

**MMRRRC at MU uses Charles River Laboratories (area K64) as an approved vendor for sentinels and recipient females.*

Personnel entry into the facility:

Each vivarium animal facility has dedicated staff for husbandry and colony management. No other personnel are allowed entry into the facility. Each person is trained on the standard operating procedures for entry into the facility as well aseptic technique procedures for cage change and work within the animal housing area of the building before their entry access is granted. Upon entry, employees must wear facility dedicated personal protective equipment autoclaved clothing (scrubs)/Tyvek or disposable gowns, hair bonnet, face mask, nitrile or latex gloves.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) MMRRRC Health and Genetics SOP
- 2) MMRRRC Animal Health and pathogen remediation SOP
- 3) MMRRRC Health Screening overview
- 4) Links to center specific protocols
 - a. [The Jackson Laboratory](#)
 - b. [University of California, Davis](#)
 - c. [University of Missouri](#)
 - d. [University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill](#)