

Customer Bulletin: October 14, 2011

On the afternoon of Friday, October 14, 2011, sera collected from CD® rats housed in Raleigh Barrier Room 5 (R05) were found to be seropositive for Reovirus by both MFIA® and IFA assays. As a result, shipments of animals from this barrier room have been stopped.

Even though serology was positive, PCR on fecal specimens from 32 rats ranging in age from recently weaned to approximately 6 months was uniformly negative, using sensitive TaqMan® methodology and primers for Reovirus Types 1 and 3. The lack of correlation between the PCR and serology results is being investigated further. The significance of Reovirus infection in rats is unclear, as are the potential sources of the virus. Although most people are seropositive for Reovirus, it is rarely detected in research rodents. Over the past two years, more than 41,000 rat serum samples from customer and in-house sources tested at Charles River Research Animal Diagnostic Services were negative for Reovirus.

The testing on October 14th was prompted by a customer report of serologic positive results, performed by our laboratory, on CD® rats they received in September 2011 from R05. For further information regarding Reovirus, please [click here](#).

All customers who received shipments of CD® rats from R05 since August 1, 2011 are being notified directly by Charles River personnel. Further, all orders scheduled from R05 will be filled from other barrier rooms.

The health status of the other Raleigh production rooms remains unchanged. In keeping with our standard biosecurity practices, biweekly serologic testing has been initiated for all Raleigh barrier rooms. Lymph node and fecal PCR testing will also be included as appropriate. The current health status for all Charles River colonies is updated weekly on our website (www.criver.com).

Moving forward, we will continually post health updates regarding R05 on the [North American Health Reports](#) section of our website.

For questions regarding animal availability, please contact our Customer Service Department at 1-800-522-7287. For all other questions, please contact our Technical Service Department at 1-800-338-9680.