

# Alternative Health Monitoring Microisolator (Static) Rack Systems

Filter-top or static microisolator cages are a simple yet effective design that enables a cage-level barrier between the inside of the cage and the external environment. This is established by utilizing a cage lid that has been fitted with a specialized filter that allows gas exchange but prevents environmental contaminants from entering the cages.

## Program Overview

Static microisolator caging poses a particular challenge for health surveillance because they are specifically designed to prevent pathogens from entering each cage. Performing health monitoring (HM) on each cage is not feasible from a budgetary, labor and time standpoint, so it is critical that multiple sampling techniques be employed to ensure an effective alternative HM program.

Our experts can help determine if your rack system will accommodate a sentinel-free monitoring program and advise on the optimal sampling sites. Example programs are outlined below.

Program Type	Annual Frequency			
	Month 3	Month 6	Month 9	Month 12
Sentinel-Free - Rack Level Monitoring	D	D	D	D
Hybrid - Rack Level Monitoring	D	D	D	S

D= Direct sampling of animals for PCR Rodent Infectious Agent (PRIA™) testing. Direct samples include fecal pellets and may include body and oral swabs.

S= Sentinel monitoring via traditional methods (i.e., serology, PCR, whole animal screening) performed on either resident (immunocompetent only) or sentinel animals

## Program Development

Not all laboratory animal facilities are the same and, quite often, require HM programs that are specifically designed around an institution's infectious agent exclusion list, study protocols or type of research animals being utilized. Charles River 360 Diagnostics™ experts will work directly with you to develop a customized HM program that meets your budgetary and surveillance requirements. Program development can include:

- consultation to assess biosecurity risk
- preventative training and education
- step-by-step assessment of current HM processes
- facility design consultation

**To request a consultation, please go to [www.criver.com/360consultation](http://www.criver.com/360consultation).**