



Public Health Advisory

07/26/2024

Critical Shortage of BACTEC™ Blood Culture Bottles

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SUMMARY

Situation: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) distributed a Health Advisory on 7/23/2024 regarding [Disruptions in Availability of Becton Dickinson \(BD\) BACTECTM Blood Culture Bottles \(cdc.gov\)](#).

- There is a shortage of BD BACTEC™ blood culture media bottles.
- Unnecessary and incorrect blood culture collection can be detrimental to patient care and contribute to worsening the shortage.
- Unavailability of blood culture media bottles may impact clinical efforts at diagnosis and management of patients with certain infections.

The SNHD recommends that all laboratory professionals and providers:

- ✓ **Understand.** Know if your facility is affected by the shortage of BACTEC™
 - Find out if your facility is impacted by the shortage and what the current availability is.
 - Identify high usage areas using electronic health data.
 - Monitor ongoing use.
- ✓ **Consider.** Promote blood culture [stewardship](#).
 - Order blood cultures when appropriate.
 - Leverage IT to automate clinical decision support algorithms prior to ordering a blood culture.
- ✓ **Educate.** Ensure phlebotomy [best practices](#) are implemented to reduce contaminated cultures collected.

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Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action

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