



June 11, 2024

Dear Valued BD BACTEC™ Blood Culture System User,

We are writing to inform you that you may experience intermittent delays in supply of some BD BACTEC™ blood culture media over the coming months.

The following products may be impacted:

SKU	Product Name
442023	BD BACTEC™ Plus Aerobic/F Culture Vials
442021	BD BACTEC™ Lytic/10 Anaerobic/F Culture Vials
442020	BD BACTEC™ Peds Plus™/F Culture Vials
442022	BD BACTEC™ Plus Anaerobic/F Culture Vials
442024	BD BACTEC™ Standard Anaerobic/F Culture Vials
442027	BD BACTEC™ Standard/10 Aerobic/F Culture Vials
442794	BD BACTEC™ Myco/F Lytic Culture Vials

### Why is this happening?

For several months, we have seen reduced availability of plastic bottles from our supplier that has prevented us from manufacturing BD BACTEC™ media to meet full global demand. To date, we have been able to manage this issue with a variety of measures, but based on the latest demand projections, we anticipate users may begin to experience additional supply constraints and delays in media availability.

### How is BD addressing the issue?

We understand the critical role that blood culture media play in diagnosing and treating infections, and we want to assure you that we are taking all necessary steps to address this issue. BD is collaborating with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to review all options to resolve this challenge as quickly as possible. In response to the ongoing challenges, BD has already implemented various mitigation measures. These include:

1. Working directly with our raw material supplier of molded bottles to improve production line efficiency and output
2. Early placement of BD BACTEC™ media on manual allocation to closely manage supply and ensure equitable distribution
3. Reducing transit times where possible with air shipment to meet regional needs and improve inventory levels
4. Modifying manufacturing schedules to rapidly respond to bottle shipments from our supplier

### When will product availability improve?

While inventory is forecasted to tighten in the coming weeks, we expect that ongoing mitigation efforts will lead to increased supply to meet global demand. In the interim, BD will continue to fill customer orders regularly and as supply is available. As this is a dynamic and evolving situation, we will provide another supply update by September 2024.

### Recommended Actions:

- Assess the current inventory levels of BD BACTEC™ blood culture media within your system warehouse, laboratory, unit, and nursing stations.
- Prioritize the use of blood culture media based on clinical need and following guidelines of local oversight committees, such as the most recent update from IDSA (<https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciae104>) and/or the World Health Organization (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241599221>) as applicable to your region.
- Partner with your internal clinical teams to align on and implement a BD BACTEC™ blood culture media utilization strategy.
- Emphasize the importance of proper blood volume collection and disinfection of skin protocols with collectors to optimize recovery and minimize false positive results, respectively. (Revisit local guidelines such as CLSI)

Please contact your local BD account representative with any questions. Thank you for your continued trust and partnership as we navigate this challenge while ensuring that patient care remains our top priority.

Sincerely,



Chris Beddard  
VP, Global Platform Leader, Microbiology  
BD Life Sciences

Advancing the world of health