

## Turkish capital uses Hygiena ATP monitoring to verify city bus cleaning



Like the rest of the world, Ankara, the capital city of Turkey, has been hit by the SARS-Cov-2 (coronavirus), and has taken aggressive steps to help protect its citizens.

One of city's prevention steps is the implementation of a rigorous cleaning of its bus and rail fleet and associated transit stations and verifying those cleaning efforts using the Hygiena SystemSURE Plus™ ATP monitoring system. While ATP exists in cells and not in viruses, it nonetheless can quickly indicate whether cleaning efforts are thorough.

A fleet of about 1,500 buses and an extensive railway network serves the city of 5.4 million people. For Ankara's bus and rail agency EGO, workers clean and disinfect their buses every day, using chemicals approved by the World Health Organization for the ability to reduce bacterial counts and disable coated viruses, like SARS-Cov-2.

In a statement on the [agency's website](#), Didem Taylan, EGO General Directorate of Bus Operations, said:

“We carry out internal and external cleaning of buses with frequent disinfection of our vehicles serving our citizens within the EGO General Directorate of Bus Operations. In terms of community health, our work continues all night to enable our citizens to use our vehicles in a healthy way the next day. The disinfection product used is the disinfection products licensed by the Ministry of Health and approved by the World Health Organization and are not harmful to human health.”



A series of videos and photos by EGO show workers using disinfectants on mass transit vehicles, as well as handrails and other common high-touch surfaces in stations. One worker showed a Relative Light Unit (RLU) reading of 0 after cleaning. While appropriate RLU levels vary by environment, in general an RLU reading below 50 is considered a satisfactory measure of cleaning effectiveness. [Cleaning activities](#), according to EGO, include:

“The back and bottom parts of the seats, especially the passenger seats inside the EGO buses, buttons, passenger handles, glass edges and ventilation covers are disinfected against viruses that may cause epidemic diseases by spraying them. Buses that are controlled with a ATP measurement device are sprayed until the negative values are reset.”

In Ankara, EGO says about 800,000 people ride the city's buses every day.

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[David Satterfield](#), US Ambassador to Turkey, praised the nation's early and rapid efforts to stave off COVID-19. As of April 1, according to WHO figures, the country has had 13,531 confirmed COVID-19 cases, and 214 people have died. Research on the SARS-Cov-2 virus is continuing on a number of levels, including attempts to discover how long such a virus may last on steel, plastic, cardboard and other surfaces.