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Metro Transit adding to measures to fight virus

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Metro Transit is kicking up its safety measures a notch a year into the coronavirus pandemic.

Starting Monday, Metro Transit will use a new antimicrobial technology to reduce the spread of bacteria, viruses and other germs on its transit systems. Its maintenance crews will use a fogging device to create a protective barrier on surfaces that lasts for 30 days.

Bi-State Development President and CEO Taulby Roach said the new technology is a game-changer.

"This product allowed us to add an extra element of protection for the health of the public and for our customers," Roach said. "And what we want to show the public is that we're going to take every measure that we can to create a system that is safe and clean and ready for them."

Metro Transit spent eight months searching for a product that would cut down on the growth of microbes. He said the fogging device had the

best coverage, better adhered to high touch surfaces, and was more cost effective.

"Being able to have a product that worked hand in hand with our normal disinfecting efforts that of course we'll still do nightly, just made more sense and was much more cost effective, and so the fogging agents really seem to work well," Roach said.

The fogging device uses a water-based and alcohol-free chemical that will be used on Metro buses, MetroLink trains and Metro Call-A-Ride vans. This will be done in tandem with the routine nightly cleanings that have been taking place throughout the pandemic.

This latest safety measure, follows a string of precautions Metro Transit has put in place to protect its employees and customers. Masks were implemented early on, as well as access to PPE and plexiglass barriers to give transit operators another layer of protection.

"They're out there running their shifts, and we need to be sure to be vigilant and to back them up as best we can," Roach said.

Roach said they've already prioritized getting its workers vaccinated.