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# Boston opening new 1,000-bed field hospital at BCEC



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**Todd Kazakiewich**

Reporter

**BOSTON** — Boston's first field hospital opens Friday at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center to support local hospitals as they manage a surge in COVID-19 patients.

Boston Hope is a 1,000-bed medical center for those recovering from COVID-19.

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Five hundred of the BCEC beds are designated for the city's homeless population, and the other 500 are designated for noncritical patients.

The Boston Hope Medical Center is a four-way collaboration between the state, the city, Partners HealthCare and Boston Health Care for the Homeless.

Kevin Whitner, a patient care leader at Newton-Wellesley Hospital said they have already seen a surge of patients during the last two weeks, which is ahead of state predictions.

“We opened up our second ICU. We converted a 24-bed surgical unit to a second ICU, and, in fact, what we're seeing is about 90% of those patients require mechanical

ventilation,” Whitner said. “They need to be on ventilators. That’s been our experience so far.”

Whitner said, overall, 80% of the cases have mild to moderate symptoms.

“Everyone is really here for the patients and especially when they see the positive outcomes -- when we’re able to take a patient off a ventilator and they’re smiling waving and thanking the team for the excellent care they’ve provided,” Whitner said.

The state's first field hospital at the [DCU Center in Worcester](#) opened Thursday.

The city of Boston has seen 2,812 cases of COVID-19, and has recorded 34 COVID-19-related deaths, Mayor Marty Walsh said Thursday. Walsh said 325 people have recovered.