

Coronavirus: Boston
Mayor Marty Walsh has
secured over 240
additional beds for the
homeless population at
Suffolk University and a
former hospital

Updated Mar 29, 2020; Posted Mar 29, 2020



Existing vacant four-story, 58,420-square-foot building formerly used as a 59-bed long-term acute care hospital. The building stands on 2.12 acres and features dining facilities, common area amenities, a large parking lot and immediate access to the MBTA Green Line B branch.

By [Douglas Hook | dhook@masslive.com](mailto:dhook@masslive.com)

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh announced Suffolk University and a former hospital owned by the Davis Companies will add an additional 240 beds for the homeless population in reaction to the [COVID-19 pandemic](#).

“The 240 beds that I just mentioned are in addition to the 55 beds we already created [at] the rear of the Southampton street shelter,” Walsh said Sunday.

“We’re also working closely with the state to repurpose the Newton Pavilion and Boston Medical center and we will temporarily reopen it to meet the medical needs of homeless residents affected by coronavirus.”

The total of 240 beds will be provided by Suffolk University who will repurpose a dormitory to provide at least 172 beds and a former long-term [acute care hospital](#) at 1515 Commonwealth St. that will provide 70 beds.

Walsh recently announced that Boston was awarded \$2.5 million from the Boston Resiliency Fund to strengthen the health care system for the city’s

homeless population and its most vulnerable residents.

Gov. Charlie Baker also announced on Thursday that the state will provide additional services to the Boston homeless population by re-opening the former Newton Pavilion health care center.

The pavilion will be ready to serve the community by Monday and has a capacity of 250 beds, according to Walsh.

“We are fully committed to protecting all of our residents, including those experiencing homelessness, because every life is worth protecting,” Walsh said. “We will continue to ramp up resources as necessary to serve everyone in our city with the care and equity they deserve. I sincerely thank everyone who is doing their part in helping us increase our ability to help those in need.”

All of Boston's shelters have remained open during the crisis and will do in the future. Walsh told reporters on Sunday that every facility in Boston has been deep cleaned and sanitized to combat the spread of the virus.

"We at Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program appreciate the Mayor's leadership in this time of crisis and are grateful for the joint partnership to combat the pandemic," said Chief Executive Officer at Boston Health Care For the Homeless Program Barry Bock

Cities across Massachusetts have been opening up centers to accommodate the homeless during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Springfield [Mayor Domenic J. Sarno](#) announced on Friday the city's contingency plan to assist the city's homeless population during the COVID-19 pandemic by erecting three tents across from the Friends of the Homeless Center on Worthington St.

Worcester has also been opening several new satellite shelters for homeless populations.

[North High School](#) opened to house 25 people on Friday and on Saturday, another satellite shelter to house 25 more people opened at the Worcester Technical High School. The city is also looking at preparing spaces for members of the homeless population who need to quarantine as well as those who may test positive for coronavirus.

Related Content: