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From the Boston Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/boston/news/2020/04/03/k-mart-parking-lot-offered-free-of-charge-for-mask.html>

K-Mart parking lot offered 'free of charge' for mask decontamination system

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The state's largest health care system is partnering with Ohio-based defense contractor Battelle and the city of Somerville to deploy a critical care decontamination system in the parking lot of a vacant K-Mart.

The Battelle N95 decontamination system will be the fourth system that's operational in the United States, said [Marylou Sudders](#), Gov. [Charlie Baker's](#) health and human services chief.

"We moved very quickly to secure Massachusetts as the fourth location," Sudders said. "That's a significant win for Massachusetts."

The K-Mart site is located adjacent to [Partners HealthCare's](#) large administrative offices at Somerville's Assembly Row, and owned by Assembly Row developer [Federal Realty Investment Trust](#) (NYSE: FRT).

[Patrick McMahon](#), senior vice president of regional development, said the Maryland-based REIT is providing the space for free.

"In recognition of our common cause to fight COVID-19, Federal Realty is providing this space at no cost. We are eager to support the important work of Partners Healthcare," McMahon said in a statement to the Business Journal. "Bringing this critical technology to the region helps protect our frontline healthcare workers when they need it most."

The decontamination system uses FDA-approved technology to disinfect N95 masks between five and 10 times apiece. The industry-grade system brings a level of quality assurance that will allow health systems to concentrate on combatting coronavirus, Sudders said.

"The system can decontaminate up to 80,000 masks per day which should cover all demand in Massachusetts over time," Sudders said. "The current pricing is \$3.25 per mask. Battelle has indicated it will reduce the price when it reaches national quantity levels."

The system should be up and running on Monday.

Catherine Carlock
Real Estate Editor
Boston Business Journal



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Ohio-based defense contractor Battelle and Partners HealthCare will set up a Battelle N95 mask decontamination system in the parking lot of a vacant K-Mart in Somerville.