

**BIEMS UPDATE APRIL 1, 2020**

**RE: RADIO TRAFFIC**

**For More Information: [beaverislandems@gmail.com](mailto:beaverislandems@gmail.com)**

Important information regarding radio traffic!

Over the past several weeks, we have been asking additional questions for certain medical emergencies to help screen for COVID-19 symptoms. This information is important so that first responders can take appropriate actions in order to be prepared to treat the patient appropriately, while also taking precautions to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Today, we are changing the way this information from our screening questions is being given to first responders. For those that monitor public safety radio traffic, you will hear us use phrases such as "patient screens positive for COVID-19." It is very important to keep in mind that this information is based on our questioning, and is in no way a diagnosis. While these patients may have COVID-19 symptoms based on our questioning, they may also have other conditions such as (but not limited to) influenza. We are following best practices and guidelines for conducting this questioning and to properly notify our first responders of precautions that they may need to take, per their own policies and procedures.