

How to Use the Vocera® Badge and Smartbadge With PAPRs

When wearing the Vocera Badge or Smartbadge under Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), the following guidance has proven helpful to care team members wearing powered air purifying respirators (PAPRs).

Speech Recognition

Vocera has conducted research and interviewed customers to create a list of tips for using Vocera devices while wearing PAPR masks. For PAPRs with a facial seal, speech recognition can be problematic if there is an improper seal. Once the seal is corrected, the noise from the air flow is consistent and therefore does not interfere with speech recognition.

Tips: If you experience challenges with speech recognition, please try the following tips.

- **Speak louder.** Some users of Vocera technology naturally have soft voices. Adding a mask may further reduce their vocal output, making it difficult for the Vocera Genie to hear everything being said. Simply increase the volume of your voice when wearing a mask to improve speech recognition.
- **Use a headset with a boom microphone.** Simply place the boom microphone of your wired or Bluetooth headset inside of your PAPR mask to help direct your voice into the microphone and help amplify it and improve speech recognition. For PAPR masks that leave your ears outside of the mask, wear the headset outside of the mask. For more information on using the Badge and Smartbadge with a headset, please visit [Vocera Devices Headset Information](#) guide.

Note: Before using a headset inside or outside of your PPE, please consult your infection prevention department to determine if this complies with your organization's guidelines. Please also note, materials that rub against the microphone may introduce noise and hinder speech recognition. Be sure to position the mic so that it doesn't hit or rub against the PAPR mask components.

- **Train the Vocera Genie to recognize your voice while wearing PPE.** Say Learn a Name, Learn a Group Name, Learn an Address Book Name, or Learn a Command while wearing PPE to train the Genie to recognize your voice. Please refer to the [Improve Speech Recognition While Wearing Personal Protective Equipment](#) guide for more information on training the Genie.

Note: This is most effective when you go through the exercise using the same type of PPE you use frequently.

Note: If you log in using a generic profile instead of your name, you will have to train the Genie each time you log in as others using the same generic profile will overwrite how you trained the Genie. If you login using your name, you will only have to train the Genie once.

Hearing Audio

Audio output from Vocera devices is not impacted for the care team member wearing PAPR. However, the ability of the person receiving the call to hear and understand the audio from a caller using a PAPR can be difficult for some due to the airflow noise accompanying the speech of the caller. Additionally, the hectic nature of many environments that require the use of PPE may be noisier and therefore more difficult to hear audio.

Tips: If you find it challenging to hear the Badge or Smartbadge, please try the following tips. You may also recommend these tips for people you will be interacting with who may struggle to make out what you are saying.

- **Turn up the volume.**
 - **Smartbadge:** If the device display is turned off, press the volume button once to turn on the display. Press the "up volume button" to increase the volume and the "down volume button" to decrease the volume. For more information, please refer to the [Using the Volume Button](#) section of the [Vocera V-Series Smartbadge User Guide](#).



Powered air purifying respirator (PAPR)

- **B3000n Badge:** While on a call, press the “up volume button” to increase the volume and the “down volume button” to decrease the volume. You can also adjust the volume when not on a call. Please refer to the [Adjusting Volume](#) section of the [Vocera B-Series Badge User Guide](#) to learn more.
- **Use a headset.** In addition to using a headset to amplify your voice, a headset also directs audio from the Badge or Smartbadge into your ear while reducing ambient noise.

Additional Reference Materials

[Vocera Devices and Accessories Cleaning Guide](#)

[Tips and Tricks Instant Conference and Broadcasting](#)