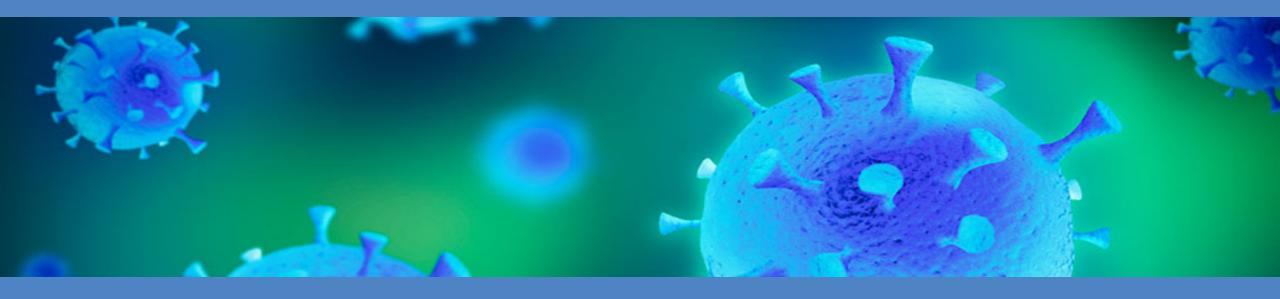
### VCHIP / CHAMP / VDH COVID-19 UPDATES



Wendy Davis, MD FAAP - Senior Faculty, Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, UVM Breena Holmes, MD FAAP – VCHIP Senior Faculty & Physician Advisor, MCH Division, VDH December 4, 2020









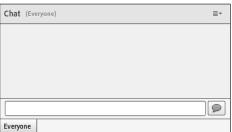
## **Technology Notes**

1) All participants will be muted upon joining the call.

If you dialed in or out, unmute by pressing #6 to ask a question (and press \*6 to mute).

Presenters: Please avoid the use of speakerphone and make sure your computer speaker is muted if you dialed in via phone.

2) To ask or respond to a question using the *Chat* box, type your question and click the licon or press Enter to send.







#### Overview

- □ Onset of the Great Smog of London, 1952
  - Also Extraordinary Work Team Recognition Day
  - Also National Cookie Day
- Reminder: weekly event schedule
  - VCHIP/CHAMP/VDH calls: Mon/Wed/Fridays; Gov. Media Briefings Tues/Fri; VMS call with Comm. Levine Thursday
- Situation, VDH, CDC updates; Friday media briefing

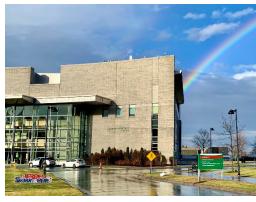


- VDH Immunization Program Updated postponed until 12/7/20
- □ Q & A, Discussion

[Please note: the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve very rapidly – so the information we're providing today may change quickly]



https://www.britannica.com/event/Great-Smog-of-London



David Nelson, MD



# Reminder: Data Dashboard Change (effective 12/2/20)

- Vermont COVID-19 cases now includes probable cases reported to VDH since September 6, 2020.
- Definition:
  - Person tested positive on antigen test and has symptoms of COVID-19 or epidemiologic evidence, OR
  - Person has symptoms of COVID-19 and is epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case of COVID-19.





# Situation update

Sep

Nov



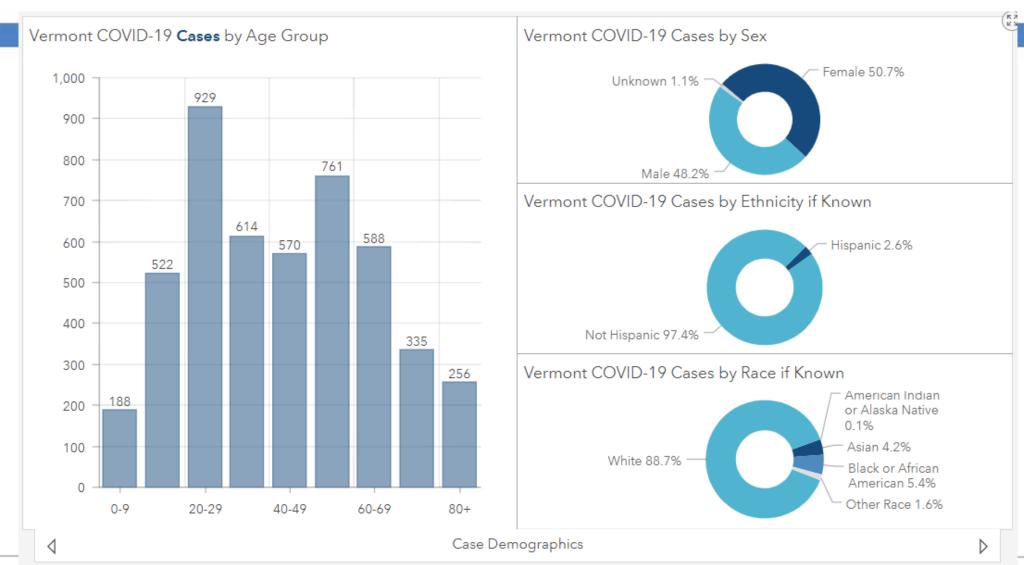


- https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirusus-cases.html (updated 12/4/20)
- 12/3/20: 216,548 new cases; 2,857 deaths; 100,667 hospitalized [NOTE: these stats updated post-call]
- Past week: average 180,327 cases/day (increase of 8%) from average 2 weeks ago)
- 1.5 million+ deaths worldwide (65.2 million+ cases)
- VDH Weekly Data Summary(12/4/20)
- Weekly Spotlight Topic: Recent Outbreaks
- Find previous summaries at:
  - https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/currentactivity/weekly-data-summary

https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/current-activity/vermont-dashboard



# Situation update







## COVID-19 Cases in VT K-12 Learning Communities (While Infectious)

- COVID-19 Cases in Vermont K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious (dashboard)
  - https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID19-Transmission-Schools.pdf
  - Table updated **Tuesday** w/data through previous Sunday: as posted 12/1/20: **128** total cases; 18 cases reported in preceding 7 days (down from 35 reported previous week)

November 29, 2020

#### Cases in Vermont K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious

Learning Community  Schools with less than 25 students are reported in the "Total for all Suppressed Schools" row at the end of the table.	Cases Reported In the Past 7 Days	Total Cases
TOTAL FOR ALL SCHOOLS	16	128

#### **Cases in Vermont K-12 Learning Communities While Infectious**

Learning Community  Schools with less than 25 students are reported in the "Total for all Suppressed Schools" row at the end of the table.	Cases Reported In the Past 7 Days	Total Cases
TOTAL FOR ALL SCHOOLS	35	110

- VT College & University dashboards:
  - Now on break from on-campus learning: <a href="https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/school-reopening">https://dfr.vermont.gov/about-us/covid-19/school-reopening</a>





# Testing Updates: VDH Health Advisory

- NEW VDH Health Advisory: 12/3/20 Updated Guidance Regarding Testing for SARS-CoV-2 – Testing for SARS-CoV-2 infection recommended more broadly:
  - Person in workplace or household, or associated w/event, tests positive, testing of other attendees should be performed ASAP AND at or after day 7.
  - Person should be tested for COVID-19 before and after attending a gathering of people from more than one household HH).
    - If positive, must isolate & follow VDH guidance to prevent transmission.
    - If negative, result does not preclude future positive test results a negative test only indicates the person's status at that point in time.
  - People who often gather socially w/others from outside HH seek test weekly.
  - College students returning to Vermont from out-of-state colleges should quarantine AND be tested on day 7 or later of quarantine after returning home.





# Testing Updates: VDH Health Advisory (cont'd.)

- NEW VDH Health Advisory 12/3/20 Updated Guidance Regarding Testing for SARS-CoV-2
- Reminder: (per updated COVID-19 case def. from Council of State & Territorial Epidemiologists/CSTE as stated in VDH Health Update 9/2/20): a positive SARS-CoV-2 PCR result does not require confirmation.
  - Negative PCR result after initial positive PCR does not negate initial positive result; initial positive PCR result <u>cannot be ignored</u> if pt. retested & PCR is negative. Also, an indeterminate PCR test result is not a 'presumptive positive' result.
- □ Close contacts of person w/COVID-19 must quarantine
- On-Demand Sites expanding daily/weekly updates provided w/email.
- □ City of Burlington **local** testing: CIC Health Testing Site, 405 Pine St, Burl.
  - □ City web site (<a href="https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/covid-19/testing">https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/covid-19/testing</a>) states "must



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

#### In the News

- Dr. Fauci appointed Chief Medical Advisor to Biden-Harris administration
- City of Burlington wastewater monitoring wastewater for traces of COVID-19: "levels have skyrocketed in the last few days" (as reported by WCAX 12/3/20)
  - □ Pre-Halloween "low levels," then increased/decreased mid-Nov.; now w/"sharp rise" Thanksgiving (v. detectable in wastewater up to 7d. before testing results).
  - Mayor Weinberger enc. immed. test for all who attended multi-household gath.
- Burlington High School potential relocation to Macy's, downtown:
   chlorinated solvents (presumed from dry-cleaning bus.) found in soil. VT DEC to conduct air quality testing <u>today</u>. HS students currently have some (limited) in-person contact at Edmunds MS on Wednesdays.

# VT Pediatricians Respond to COVID-19!

- □ Alexandra Bannach, MD FAAP (Newport) on VPR News (12/1/20)
  - https://www.vpr.org/post/precipice-after-quiet-spring-nek-starts-seeingcovid-and-its-impacts#stream/0
  - Also recapped (12/2): The Frequency: <a href="https://www.vpr.org/post/covid-kingdom">https://www.vpr.org/post/covid-kingdom</a>
  - □ Only 65 cases from onset mid-Oct.; now case counts rising (>200 NEK Nov.). May be due to proximity to NH border; lack of compliance w/GLs.
  - Dr. Bannach worries most about the ripple effects school closures could have in the region: "If you have two or three teachers out because they're under investigation/quarantining/sick, that can be what tips one of our small schools to having to close"...kids may lose reliable access to food.
  - Lack of broadband means remote classes not always an option.
  - False sense of security early on "for health care community, it was

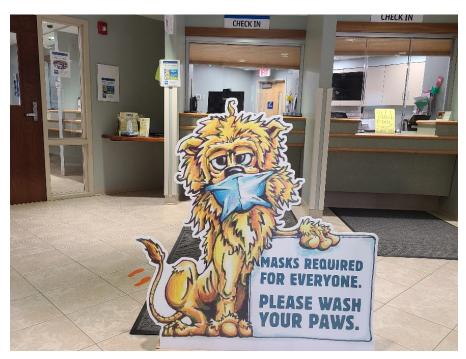
VERMONY Ident it was only a question of time."

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# VT Pediatricians Respond to COVID-19! (cont'd.)

- □ Josh Kantrowitz, MD FAAP St. Johnsbury Pediatrics
- □ Worked with local artist to create COVID-19 signage for practice
- Exploring opportunities for funding/dissemination w/AAP-VT









# AHS, VDH, UVM MC Press Conference (12/3/20)

- Dr. Levine, AHS Secy. Mike Smith, UVM MC Pres/CEO Steve Leffler addressed "spike in cases" & explained UVM MC reporting delay (to VDH)
  - Results from testing Nov. 22-29 were not promptly reported to VDH; included ~50 positive COVID-19 cases. Sixteen of those cases were included in 12/3/20 case count of 178.
- Results went to HCPs who ordered tests; providers could notify patients of their positive results and instruct them to isolate at home.
- □ VDH contact tracing began 12/3/20.
- State Epidemiologist Patsy Kelso: VDH will know more about impact the reporting delay may have had on further spread thru contact tracing.





## Reminder: CDC updated quarantine duration options

- □ Note: CDC still prefers 14 days.
- New guidance re: shortening recommended quarantine times for people who may have been exposed to the coronavirus.
  - Previous recommendation = 14-day quarantine period following potential exposure; officials still support this as safest option.
  - NOW: Those without symptoms may end quarantine after seven days, followed by a negative test for the virus, or after 10 days without a negative test.
  - PCR OR rapid tests are acceptable; should be taken within 48 hours of the end of the quarantine period.
  - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-optionsto-reduce-quarantine.html





# VDH Response to (new) CDC Quarantine Guidance

- At this time, there are no plans to change Vermont's existing policy, which calls for a 14-day quarantine, or gives the option to get a PCR test at Day 7 or later to end quarantine early with a negative test, as long as the person continues to have no symptoms.
- This policy, implemented in May, is well-understood by Vermonters and our data show it has worked to prevent further spread of COVID-19.
- "We will continue to review our guidance regularly to make sure we are using best practices based on data and science throughout the pandemic."
- NOTE: New Hampshire WILL adopt new CDC guidance
   https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid-19-update27.pdf





# UVM CH/MC/HN Update

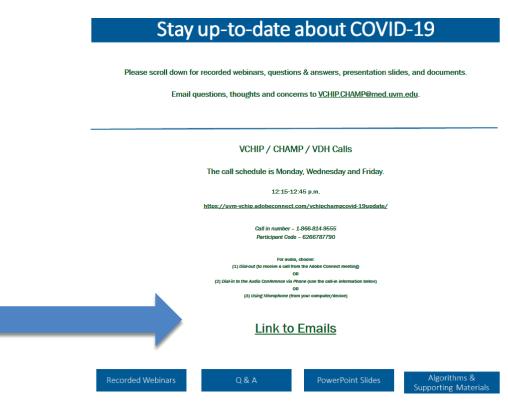
- □ BRIEF Epic outage & return to "downtime" procedures yesterday (12/3)
- Problem: no access to Epic from certain category of computer stations
- Most computer stations used by inpt. nurses not allowing Epic access
  - Outpatient practices with access instruction to "carry on as usual"
  - Access restored last eve.; cause = instability in software loaded into Citrix.
- As previously noted: Radiology remains down (doing emergency films, using emergency readers; but takes more time e.g., 1hr/CT scan).
   Goal = restore before Christmas
- □ For UVM Children's Hospital:
  - Business as usual: please refer by multiple methods
  - □ Please contact Dr. First for *any* referral issues/other concerns related to



#### **CHAMP E-Mail Distribution Difficulties**

#### Some emails are still not being received

- Were blocked on our end originally, this block has since been removed
- Labeled junk/spam at your site
- Other things? Still working to discover/fix.
- Will post email on our landing page the morning after the call and it will stay there until the subsequent email is posted







# Today's Media Briefing (12/4/20)

#### **Governor Phil Scott**

- Yesterday had highest daily total; some should have been reported as far back as 11/21/20.
- Data does not support return to school/rec sports at this time.
- "Asking VTers to please come together for what we hope will be a final push & get us through this latest surge."
- F/U question last Friday from Chris Roy re: mental health toll this event among the most stressful VT has faced. Much different than other crises due to long duration.
- □ "Checking in" can go a long way; resources are available. Call



# Today's Media Briefing (cont'd.)

VT Dept. of Mental Health Comm. Sarah Squirrel

- None of us are immune to stress; may be esp. challenging for vulnerable populations.
- MH issues co-occur w/SUD & developmental disabilities.
- "You are not alone seeking help can be supportive."
- □ Broad range of services & supports available:

#### SEE NEXT SLIDE





## Mental Health Resources and Help are Available

Vermonters have a broad range of free, confidential mental health supports available to them 24/7:

- Call Vermont 2-1-1
- Visit COVIDSUPPORTVT.org
- Crisis Text Line text the letters "VT" to 741741. Get immediate counseling and support through text messaging.
- Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255. To learn more about how you can help a loved one, visit Know the Warning Signs: suicidepreventionlifeline.org/how-we-can-all-prevent-suicide
- Visit VTHELPLINK.org or call 1-800-565-LINK for substance use support
- Call the Trevor Lifeline (LGBTQ Crisis Lifeline): 1-866-488-7368
- Call the Veteran's Crisis Line: 1-800-273-8255 and press 1
- Contact your primary care provider
- Talk to a family member, friend, health care provider, a faith leader, teacher or coach

# Today's Media Briefing (cont'd.)

Dept. of Mental Health Commissioner Sarah Squirrel

- Suicide: VT data shows lower # 2020 than average in prev.
   years; we know Vermonters are struggling.
- □ Suicide is preventable. Address MH issues; access TX/helplines.
- All about outreach & screening asking if thinking about it does
   not put idea in head but opens the door for caring conversation.
- □ Social connection is key use virtutal means.
- □ Talk w/your children they may be fearful & missing routines.
- If parents are worried, reach out to your pediatrician or local school
- Youth: reach out to parents, caregivers, teachers, etc.





# Today's Media Briefing (cont'd.)

# VERMONT'S Office of Government, gure/co-difference

#### AHS Secretary Mike Smith

- Today: VDH Health Alert & DAIL letters to LTC facilities; Abbott also sending emails to all LTC re: training on BinaxNOW Ag test cards. Planning new surveillance testing strategy for LTC, effective Monday, 12/7/20.
- Assisted & residential care 2X/wk. PCR tests; will also make Ag tests available to quickly identify pos. residents & staff; higher acuity SNFs will test staff daily w/BinaxNOW (expect distribution next week)
  - Also 1/wk. PCR testing for all staff. Rec. immed. Ag test for symptom pt. or staff.
- Contact Tracing update: on track for ~100 FTEs by 12/7; looking at opportunities to expand Call Center & implement text notification alert when VTers identified as close contact (expect to implement next week).





# Friday Media Briefing (cont'd.)

#### AOE Secretary Dan French

- □ Phase 2 of school testing this week: districts enumerated.
  - ~25% of schools each week through December; geog. diverse sample.
- □ Expect to test ~40-50% staff; have discussed why rate not higher.
  - Some staff don't feel need it; concerns re: privacy; locations not convenient/ registration challenges. Have added additional IT support.
- □ FAQ re: guidance on multi-household social gatherings:

  https://education.vermont.gov/documents/faq-guidance-for-schools-related-to-limits-on-multi-household-gatherings e.g., permit gathering through pre-established pods related to education/child care, but not for social activity; discourage new pods.
- Approach not just about TG will likely remain for holiday period.





# Friday Media Briefing (cont'd.)

#### AOE Secretary Dan French

- □ Substitute availability = ongoing issue; formed multidisc. Task Force; reviewing possible causes & solutions.
  - School Board members normally prohibited as "regular employees"; but <u>can</u> get waiver to be substitutes; enc. <u>all</u> Vermonters to consider sign-up as substitutes.
- Looking ahead: this period thru New Year's: focus on safe operation
- After holiday period, addtl. focus on assessing impact on students/fam.
- Natl. picture: students feeling isolated; at greater risk MH challenges.
- Seeing "truancy/attendance/engagement" concerns; usual tools may not be approp. Also plan to address fatigue of teachers & school staff.
- Next response phase: greater emphasis on looking broadly at needs of students & staff.



# Today's Media Briefing (cont'd.)

#### **VDH Commissioner Levine**

- Yesterday single day record high new cases (178); now = 224 due to delayed case reporting from UVM MC (total 36 cases from UVM MC in that #)
- Today: 73 new cases, incl. 6 more from UVMMC delay; all cases from reporting delay now included in total case count (42 cases from UVMMC)
- □ Dashboard also now shows new category of "probable" cases
- □ "Volatility/variability" in case counts: "One day does not make a trend"
- Entering flu season: monitoring % of emergent care visits for COVID-19 and influenza-like symptoms
- □ Current influenza level = **sporadic**
- TG: awaiting 10-14 day range to see impact not seeing major impact in interviewing contacts through contact tracing.

# Today's Media Briefing (cont'd.)

#### **VDH Commissioner Levine**

- Plan to present LTC outbreak data 2X/week: 2 additional in SNFs; currently 8 facilities have had major outbreaks.
  - Response: decrease community prevalence; vaccine (wks. away); more aggressive testing in LTC facilities.
- ACIP & CDC published consensus on Phase 1a vaccine distribution (12/3).
  - HCWs, residents/staff of LTC facilities: "complete alignment with VT decisions."
- Redfield (CDC): "Heading into the most difficult time in all of PH history in the nation."
- Addressed Food Insecurity and resources to mitigate (WIC, SNAP, HFV)
- Avoid stigma associated with mental health challenges AND associated with COVID-19; latter could impact willingness to be honest re: exp. & sxs.

# Practice Issues

# School and Child Care Updates



(https://vtdigger.org/2020/11/22/if-students-go-to-a-party-can-they-then-go-to-school-state-mulls-a-policy-decision/; photo by Glenn Russell)





## CHAMP Network MOC QI Project 2020-2021: Strengthening Vermont's System of High-Performing Medical Homes

- Please join our CHAMP QI project: Strengthening VT's High-Performing Medical Homes
  - Provide reliable, comprehensive, family-centered preventive services & well child visits based on Bright Futures. Use a 2-generation approach with families.
  - Provide care coordination & case management at appropriate levels.
  - Use community services & supports for healthy development.
  - Use QI to constantly adapt and improve.
- □ 2 measurement/improvement options to choose from (12/24 month or 3/6 year)
- Monthly collaborative call topics include: Promoting Family Strengths: Screening and Coordination in Early Childhood; Clinician Wellness; Developmental Assessments
- □ It's not too late to enroll please let us know by December 8, 2020!

Contact the VCHIP CHAMP Team at <u>vchip.champ@med.uvm.edu</u> with questions about participation.



# BCBS VT Connectivity Care Packages Pilot Program

- Coordinated by VPQHC (50+ organizations participating)
- Support equitable access to telehealth services, esp. for those who are digitally & medically underserved.
- 20 iPads to distribute to BCBSVT members by mid-December
  - Must have access to service connect
  - □ iPad may be kept; may add other apps.
- □ To refer, email Julie Zack (Director, Integrated Health): zackj@bcbsvt.com
- □ Thank you, Erica Gibson, MD





## CHAMP Learning Session (10/13/20) Materials Now Posted!

Thank you, Avery Rasmussen and Angela Zinno!

- Learning session website with recordings and slide decks:
   <a href="http://www.med.uvm.edu/vchip/champ/champ\_2020\_learning\_session">http://www.med.uvm.edu/vchip/champ/champ\_2020\_learning\_session</a>
- □ Link directly to Dr. Berwick's keynote recording: <a href="https://uvm-vchip.adobeconnect.com/champ2020learningsessionmoraldeterminantsofhe-alth/event/registration.html">https://uvm-vchip.adobeconnect.com/champ2020learningsessionmoraldeterminantsofhe-alth/event/registration.html</a>





## VDH Update: Opening for State School Nurse Consultant

#### Announcing with mixed feelings . . .

- □ Position currently held by Sharonlee Trefry, MSN RN NCSN (MCH/VDH)
- Nurse Program Coordinator I: State School Nurse Consultant
- Link to the job posting: <a href="https://careers.vermont.gov/job/Burlington-Nurse-Program-Coordinator-I-Limited-Service-State-School-Nurse-Consultant-VT-05401/691168800/">https://careers.vermont.gov/job/Burlington-Nurse-Program-Coordinator-I-Limited-Service-State-School-Nurse-Consultant-VT-05401/691168800/</a>
- Support Vermont's School Nursing community of practice; provide nursing leadership to ensure effective school health services within the state; act as liaison to Vermont's School Nurse (SN) community; develop/promote quality standards for school health services programs.





## Questions/Discussion

- Q & A Goal: monitor/respond in real time; record/disseminate/revisit later as needed.
- For additional questions, please e-mail: vchip.champ@med.uvm.edu
  - What do <u>you</u> need how can we be helpful (specific guidance)?
- □ VCHIP CHAMP VDH COVID-19 website:

  https://www.med.uvm.edu/vchip/projects/vchip\_champ\_vdh\_covid-19\_updates
- Next CHAMP call: Monday, December 7, 12:15-12:45 (current schedule: M-W-F): VDH
   Immunization Program Update
- □ Please tune in to VMS call with VDH Commissioner Levine:

Thursday, December 10, 12:30-1:00 p.m. – Zoom platform & call information:

- □ Join *Zoom* Meeting:
  - https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86726253105?pwd=VkVuNTJ1ZFQ2R3diSVdqdlJ2ZG4yQT09
  - Meeting ID: 867 2625 3105 / Password: 540684
- □ One tap mobile +1 646 876 9923,,86726253105#,,,,0#,,540684#



