

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

NEWS RELEASE



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VIKINGS WELCOME FANS BACK TO U.S. BANK STADIUM FOR FIRST REGULAR SEASON GAME IN NEARLY TWO YEARS

Free kickoff concert set for Sunday in the Commons Park; fans encouraged to take their seats in U.S. Bank Stadium by 3 p.m.

Eagan, Minn. (September 22, 2021) – This Sunday, September 26, the Minnesota Vikings will welcome fans back to U.S. Bank Stadium for the first regular season game in nearly two years when they take on the Seattle Seahawks at 3:25 p.m. The Vikings last regular season home game with fans took place on December 29, 2019; 636 days have passed between that contest and this Sunday's game. The only remaining tickets for Sunday's expected sellout include limited internal and visiting team returns, which can be purchased [here](#).

"Our number one focus as an organization from a business standpoint this offseason has been to safely welcome Vikings fans back to U.S. Bank Stadium for the 2021 season," said Vikings Chief Operating Officer **Andrew Miller**. "We want their return to be special, so we are treating Sunday like a grand reopening of the stadium and have a number of exciting elements in place to make it a memorable experience."

Fans are encouraged to arrive in downtown Minneapolis early to participate in pregame activities in the Commons Park and on the plaza before entering U.S. Bank Stadium in time to watch the team's "Showtime" sequence that features new team introduction videos and special effects.

Fans will experience the following pregame and in-game entertainment elements on Sunday:

Minnesota Vikings Kickoff Rally Presented by Miller Lite

Prior to Sunday's game, the Vikings and Miller Lite, in partnership with K102, will host the 5th annual Kickoff Rally in the Commons Park adjacent to U.S. Bank Stadium. The free, all-ages event is open to anyone with or without a game ticket. Gates open at 10 a.m., with **The Pork Tornadoes** performing the opening act at 11:30 a.m. followed by country music star **Dustin Lynch** taking the stage at 1 p.m. Capacity inside the Commons will be limited to 7,500, but fans can also watch from outside the gates. The event is scheduled to take place regardless of weather conditions. For more details, visit vikings.com/kickoffconcert.

Since his debut in 2021 with his self-titled, #1 album, Lynch has earned seven #1 singles, four Top 5 albums, eight Gold and Platinum certifications and membership in the historic Grand Ole Opry. He has earned industry recognition with Billboard Music Awards, iHeart Radio Music Awards and CMT Music Awards nominations with over 2.22 billion total career streams.

Chuck for Charity

Vikings fans will have an opportunity show off their inner quarterback on the Commons prior to the game with the Chuck for Charity football toss. For a \$5 donation to the Minnesota Vikings Foundation, each fan will receive three attempts to throw a football into a target. A completed pass results in an autographed Vikings item.

U.S. Bank Fan Giveaways

Every fan entering U.S. Bank Stadium will receive a Vikings car flag courtesy of U.S. Bank. Additionally, a 60-member U.S. Bank welcoming committee will distribute game day swag and essentials while supplies last. Fans can find them roaming the plaza and at the U.S. Bank Experience located in the concourse by Section 113.

Showtime/Team Introductions

Vikings fans are encouraged to be in their seats in U.S. Bank Stadium by 3 p.m. in order to watch the team's new "Showtime" sequence, which begins 15 minutes prior to kickoff. While the league-wide moratorium on on-field pyrotechnics continues in 2021, the team will feature exciting new introduction videos and special effects. Incorporating numerous Vikings Legends, the new introduction pays homage to the Vikings teams that performed in Met Stadium and used the Minnesota weather to intimidate opposing teams. Vikings Legend **Jim Marshall** explains the history [here](#).

The "Showtime" videos and special effects have all been produced in-house by the Vikings Entertainment Network.

Minnesota Orchestra Partnership - "Symphony of the North"

In a nod to the 2016 U.S. Bank Stadium opening, which featured a Minnesota Orchestra halftime performance, the Vikings have partnered with the Minnesota Orchestra for the grand reopening. This offseason, keyboardist and former member of The New Power Generation **Tommy Barbarella** composed "Symphony of the North," which was then conducted by world-renowned Music Director **Osmo Vänskä** and performed by the Grammy Award-winning Minnesota Orchestra for use in the Vikings pregame show. Vänskä is in his final year as music director in 2021-2022.

National Anthem

A quintet of **Minnesota Orchestra brass players** will perform the National Anthem prior to kickoff.

Split the Pot

Split the Pot is a new raffle program that will give one lucky game day winner a chance to share the Jackpot with the Minnesota Vikings Foundation. Raffle tickets of one, 10, 70, 200 and 500 can be purchased, ranging in price from \$5 - \$100 with a debit card from sellers outside on the Plaza and in the Commons and inside U.S. Bank Stadium. Sales will end at the two-minute warning of the fourth quarter, and the winner will be posted on the Vikings Table Twitter account and [online](#) Monday by 5 p.m.

For more information, please contact Vikings Vice President of Strategic & Corporate Communications **Jeff Anderson** at 952.828.6570 or andersonj@vikings.nfl.net. For Minnesota Orchestra-related questions, please contact Minnesota Orchestra Director of Communications **Gwen Pappas** at gpappas@mnorch.org.