Sarah Huckabee Sanders
GOVERNOR

Renee Mallory, RN, BSN
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

Jennifer Dillaha, MD
DIRECTOR

January 24, 2025

Dear Mr. Sands:

Thank you for your letter dated January 15, 2025, in which you asked whether the Arkansas Department of Health has any laws, codes, or regulations requiring customers or patrons to wear shoes or other footwear in restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, or any other type of business we regulate.

In our state, the Arkansas Department of Health regulates retail food establishments that offer temperature-controlled foods. Thus, we cannot speak for convenience stores that offer only pre-packaged foods.

As for restaurants, grocery stores, and other businesses we may regulate, there are no regulations that require consumers to wear shoes or other footwear. There is one Arkansas rule that requires food employees to wear "clean outer clothing". *See* Code Ark. R. 007.04.8-2-3. However, there are no rules that impose this requirement on customers or patrons.

I hope this letter satisfactorily answers your question. Please let me know if you need further clarification or have additional questions. Thank you again for your research request.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dillaha, M.D.

Jennifer Dillaha, MD
Director and State Health Officer