Janet T. Mills
Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes
Commissioner

Maine Department of Health and Human Services
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January 23, 2025

Dear Mr. Sands,

Thank you for your letter inquiring if the Maine Department of Health has any regulations, codes, laws, or any other specific requirements that customers or patrons of a business must wear shoes or other footwear while inside restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, or other businesses that may be under our regulatory control.

The Department of Health and Human Services, Health Inspection Program licenses and inspects eating and lodging establishments, campgrounds, youth camps, school kitchens, public pools and spas, mass gatherings and body artists. The Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry licenses grocery stores. There are no statutes or rules for patrons that I am aware of, that require shoes or other footwear while inside these establishments. The Department's statute and rules protect public health and safety with regard to the employees and operations of the establishments we license. Requirements for footwear and other apparel are a business decision.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Lisa Silva
Program Manager
Health Inspection Program
Maine CDC
286 Water Street
Augusta, Maine 04330