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Kansas
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Janet Stanek, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

March 20, 2025

Dear Mr. Sands,

Thank you for your follow-up regarding your inquiry about footwear requirements for customers in businesses regulated by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). I apologize for the delay in our response.

KDHE does not have regulations mandating that customers or patrons of businesses under our jurisdiction must always wear shoes or any form of footwear. Our regulatory scope primarily focuses on public health and safety standards, which do not extend to prescribing dress codes for customers.

However, it's important to note that Kansas operates under a system known as "home rule," which grants local governments—such as cities and counties—the authority to govern their own affairs. This means that local health departments and municipal governments have the power to enact regulations that address specific community needs and preferences, including those related to public health and safety standards within their jurisdictions.

I hope this information clarifies your inquiry. Should you have further questions or need additional assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Kind regards,

Matthew Lara
Chief of Staff
Kansas Department of Health and Environment