NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

JOSH STEIN • Governor
DEVDUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary
KAREN BURKES • Acting Deputy Secretary for Health
KELLY KIMPLE • Acting Director, Division of Public Health

March 12, 2025

Dear Mr. Sands,

Thank you for contacting our office. I am responding on behalf of Secretary Devdutta Sangvai regarding your question about requirements for customers or patrons of a business to wear shoes. First, I would like to apologize for any perception of bias in our previous communication. I can assure you that it was unintentional.

In response to your inquiry, the North Carolina General Statutes establish authority for administrative rules and regulatory enforcement for establishments that serve food or drink for pay. There are currently no laws or rules under Environmental Health Section authority that require customers or patrons to wear shoes in establishments that we regulate.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Larry D. Michael, MPH, REHS
State Environmental Health Director