Arvin Singh, EdD, MBA, MPH, MS, FACHE
DH Cabinet Secretary

Michael J. Caruso
DHF Cabinet Secretary

Alex J. Mayer, MSA, PMP
DoHS Cabinet Secretary

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENTS OF HEALTH, HEALTH FACILITIES, AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Constituent Services | John V. Lopez, Director

October 27, 2025

Mr. Sands,

Thank you for contacting the West Virginia Department of Health. Your inquiry was forwarded to our office for review and response. We are pleased to assist you.

Thank you for your letter. The answer to your questions is:

No, West Virginia does not have a law requiring customers to wear shoes in a restaurant. State health codes do not regulate customer attire, and this is a common myth.

No state law:
State health departments do not require customers to wear shoes, and this myth is widespread across the US.

Employee vs. customer:
Regulations on footwear are typically for employees who are working in areas where there's a risk of spills or falls, not for customers.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Thanks,

John V Lopez

John Lopez, Director
Office of Constituent Services
Office of Shared Administration
West Virginia Departments of Health, Health Facilities, and Human Services