

STATE OF NEVADA

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
HEALTH DIVISION

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April 10, 2009

**RE: CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS IN FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS**

Dear Mr. Rensi:

In response to your letter, dated March 30, 2009, requesting clarification on clothing requirements in a food establishment, the Health Division offers the following:

1. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 446.205 requires that food establishment employees have clean clothing.
2. NAC 446.605 restricts unauthorized persons from being present or passing through areas used for food preparation and utensil washing.
3. NAC 446 does not address clothing requirements for patrons of a food establishment.

In summary, NAC 446 requires clean clothing for employees of a food establishment to prevent contamination of food and food contact surfaces. Patrons are not allowed to enter food preparation areas. Although there is no regulation defining appropriate patron attire, food establishment operators are free to impose any requirements (i.e. no shoes, no shirt, no service) they wish for their patrons.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Joe Pollock of our Frontier and Rural Health Program at (775) 687-7537.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Wherry".

Mary Wherry, RN, MS  
Deputy Administrator

cc: Mike Willden, Director, Department of Health and Human Services