



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

CONSUMER, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE  
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CHRIS CHRISTIE  
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO  
Lt. Governor

CATHLEEN D. BENNETT  
Commissioner

September 19, 2017

Dear Mr. Sands,

Your letter to Cathleen Bennett, Commissioner of Health inquiring whether or not patrons are required under New Jersey law to wear shoes or other forms of footwear when entering a retail food establishment has been referred to me for reply.

In New Jersey, all retail food establishments are regulated under the provisions of N.J.A.C. 8:24-1 et seq. which is entitled "Chapter 24 Sanitation in Retail Food Establishment and Food and Beverage Vending Machines" (aka Chapter 24 rules). The Chapter 24 rules address the sanitary requirements for retail food establishments and are enforced primarily by the local health department of competent jurisdiction. The Chapter 24 rules specify the requirements for clothing for food employees but do not address such requirements for patrons.

I hope that this satisfactorily addresses your concerns. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your concern in greater detail, please contact me at 609-826-4935.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Manley".

William Manley  
Retail Food Project Leader  
New Jersey Department of Health  
Public Health and Food Protection Program