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COVID-19 Related Death Data

This week, the United States reached one million deaths related to COVID, the Cayuga County Health Department and the Cayuga County Health Department Medical Director, Dr. Philip Gioia would like to provide an overview of the COVID-19 related deaths that have been reported to the department since the beginning of the pandemic. In late 2020, before vaccines for COVID-19 were available, the original variants of COVID-19 led to more deaths. In the months after vaccines became widely available, deaths due to COVID-19 dropped significantly. The chart below provides a month-by-month breakdown of deaths before the vaccine was available and after. Included in the chart below is vaccination status of the deceased.

Dr. Gioia explains, “In mid to late 2021 and 2022, we see more vaccinated individuals dying, since older and high-risk people are more likely to be vaccinated. In national and international studies, older or high-risk individuals do better if vaccinated, but will still get sick and die more than younger or low-risk individuals. Younger and low-risk people have lower death rates and lower vaccine rates, but in larger scale research studies, rates of death and disease in unvaccinated younger and low-risk people is still higher than if vaccinated”.

As variants emerge and transmission continues to happen throughout the community, COVID-19 deaths will continue to happen. However, in comparison to January 2021, there were significantly less deaths in January 2022, a year after vaccinations became readily available. Vaccination and staying up to date on recommended booster shots, continues to provide the best defense against severe illness and death.



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