

What proportion of **sexual contacts of persons with infectious syphilis become infected?**

The answer marked (D) 50%-67% is **correct**.

Explanation:

Syphilis is predominantly sexually transmitted through direct contact with a syphilis lesion (chancre). The **risk of transmission** to a sex contact during the **primary or secondary (infectious) stage** is quite high — roughly **50-60%** per exposed contact.

This means **about 1 in 2 persons (up to 2 in 3)** who have sex with someone in the contagious stage will become infected.

References:

Reference:

- **CDC. "Syphilis — STD Treatment Guidelines."** (<https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines/syphilis.htm>)
- **Brown and Frank, Clinical Manifestations of Syphilis, UpToDate.**
- **King and Adams, "Sexually Transmitted Diseases," Textbook of Medicine.**