

## **What is a SARS ALERT (as referred to in Slide 15)?**

The SARS Alert is an operational definition introduced by the WHO to ensure that appropriate infection control and public health measures are implemented until SARS has been ruled out as a cause of the atypical pneumonia or respiratory distress syndrome. Definition of a SARS Alert is –

- two or more health care workers in the same ward/unit fulfilling the clinical case definition of SARS and with onset of illness in the same 10-day period; or
- hospital acquired illness in three or more persons (health care workers and/or other hospital staff and/or patients and/or visitors) in the same ward/unit fulfilling the clinical case definition of SARS and with onset of illness in the same 10-day period.