The Influenza viruses are classified into three types: A, B and C. While influenza A virus is widely recognized as the most devastating of the three types, influenza B virus is less known but has some distinct biological characteristics. It is less virulent than influenza A virus and typically causes milder symptoms. Influenza B virus is less likely to cause severe complications and does not seem to be associated with significant mortality among patients younger than 18 years old.

Key terms: influenza virus, nucleoprotein, structure