

Reporting Summary

Nature Portfolio wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Portfolio policies, see our [Editorial Policies](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a	Confirmed
☒	☒ The exact sample size (<i>n</i>) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
☒	☐ A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
☒	☐ The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided <i>Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.</i>
☒	☐ A description of all covariates tested
☒	☐ A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
☐	☒ A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
☒	☐ For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. <i>F</i> , <i>t</i> , <i>r</i>) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and <i>P</i> value noted <i>Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.</i>
☒	☐ For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
☒	☐ For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
☒	☐ Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's <i>d</i> , Pearson's <i>r</i>), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection	EPU V3.6 , Dis-coverMP software 2024 R2
Data analysis	Dis-coverMP software 2024 R2, cryosparc V4.0-4.5, AlphaFold2 as implemented in CollabFold, UCSF ChimeraX V1.7-9, PHENIX V1.20 and Coot V 0.97, FoldMason V1

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

- All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:
- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
 - A description of any restrictions on data availability
 - For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our [policy](#)

CryoEM maps and models generated in this study have been uploaded to the PDB and EMDB. The accession codes for the Sample 1-RNA Free L-protein are 9H1G [<http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb9H1G/pdb>]/EMDB-51765 [<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/emdb/entry/EMD-51765>]. The accession codes for the Sample 2 core complex (9H1Q [<http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb9H1Q/pdb>]/EMDB-51770 [<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/emdb/entry/EMD-51770>]) and full complex (9H1Y [<http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb9H1Y/>])

pdb]/EMDB-51785[https://www.ebi.ac.uk/emdb/entry/EMD-51785]. The atomic coordinates published by other authors are available in the PDB for Ebola (7YES [http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb7YES/pdb] and 8JSN [http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb8JSN/pdb]), hPIV3 (8KDC [http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb8KDC/pdb]), NDV (7YOU [http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb7YOU/pdb] and 9FUX [http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb9FUX/pdb]), HMPV (6U5O [http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb6U5O/pdb]), RSV (6UEN, [http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb6UEN/pdb]), VSIV (6U1X [http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb6U1X/pdb]), RABV (6UEB [http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb6UEB/pdb]), and M. crystallinum methyltransferase (3C3Y http://doi.org/10.2210/pdb3C3y/pdb)). Source data are provided as a source data file.

Research involving human participants, their data, or biological material

Policy information about studies with [human participants or human data](#). See also policy information about [sex, gender \(identity/presentation\), and sexual orientation](#) and [race, ethnicity and racism](#).

Reporting on sex and gender

N/A

Reporting on race, ethnicity, or other socially relevant groupings

N/A

Population characteristics

N/A

Recruitment

N/A

Ethics oversight

N/A

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

☒ Life sciences

☐ Behavioural & social sciences

☐ Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf](https://www.nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf)

Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Sample size

No statistical methods were used to determine sample size prior to the experiment. CryoEM data were collected to achieve an adequate map to support model building.

Data exclusions

No data were excluded from analysis

Replication

Protein purification was repeated at least four times and replicated successfully each time. Activity assays were repeated three times and were successful each time.

Randomization

Samples were not randomized for our study

Blinding

Investigators were not blinded.

Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

Materials & experimental systems

- | n/a | Involved in the study |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ☒ | ☐ Antibodies |
| ☐ | ☒ Eukaryotic cell lines |
| ☒ | ☐ Palaeontology and archaeology |
| ☒ | ☐ Animals and other organisms |
| ☒ | ☐ Clinical data |
| ☒ | ☐ Dual use research of concern |
| ☒ | ☐ Plants |

Methods

- | n/a | Involved in the study |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ☒ | ☐ ChIP-seq |
| ☒ | ☐ Flow cytometry |
| ☒ | ☐ MRI-based neuroimaging |

Eukaryotic cell lines

Policy information about [cell lines and Sex and Gender in Research](#)

Cell line source(s)	Sf9 cells were sourced from a the cell bank at the Division of Structural Biology, University of Oxford.
Authentication	Cells were not authenticated
Mycoplasma contamination	No tested
Commonly misidentified lines (See ICLAC register)	No commonly misidentified cell lines were used.

Plants

Seed stocks	N/A
Novel plant genotypes	N/A
Authentication	N/A